

Dare to be Bare in DEM

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Abstract:

The Department of Emergency Medicine at the RBWH in Metro North Hospital and Health Service treats up to 74 000 adult only presentations each year. In 2013, a number of DEM nursing staff were privileged to hear Dr Dave Williams (Emergency Physician, Astronaut and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, Ontario) speak about his incredible work as the CEO in leading the dramatic reduction of infection rates of venous access devices in his healthcare organisation. The campaign he used was called "Dare to be Bare" and consisted of a range of infection control busting ideas, education and publications that he rolled out throughout the whole facility. This work, and his passion for its benefits for patients, inspired the nursing team in DEM to recreate his work to see if using the catchy title would engage the entire multidisciplinary team to commit to improving infection control training and practice compliance. The result is an increase in Hand Hygiene Australia training compliance to 100%, continuously improving hand hygiene audits against the 5 moments, increased access to products and equipment to assist in infection control, greater awareness amongst staff and involvement of patients and visitors in the program. This paper will share the activities, their implementation and evaluation in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the RBWH.

KEY WORDS: Preventing hospital acquired infections, service improvement