

July 21, 2011

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SwabCap Featured in Three Presentations at APIC Conference

Disinfection Cap Allows for Reduced Catheter Infections

NEPTUNE, N.J. – SwabCap® was part of a successful effort to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) at University of Mississippi Health Care, a new study shows. The UMHC data was presented in a scientific poster at the 2011 annual meeting of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

Two other posters highlighted effectiveness of the disinfection cap in a community hospital and its use in clinician education on how to improve patient safety.

SwabCap is an [FDA-cleared](#), threaded device that passively disinfects the top and threads of [needleless IV connectors](#), for use after an IV line is placed and between line accesses. A foam pad inside the cap releases 70% IPA that continually bathes the connector top and threads. Infection-control compliance is verified when the bright orange cap is observed in place.

At UMHC, part of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the disinfection cap and a positive-pressure needleless IV connector were implemented to address an unsatisfactory CLABSI rate in the bone marrow transplant unit. The unit's patients are more vulnerable to potentially deadly CLABSIs because they have heavily compromised immune systems.

UMHC adopted SwabCap and a positive-pressure needleless connector in August 2010, resulting in a substantial reduction in infections. After the devices were added, the CLABSI rate was 1.04 infections/1,000 patient days (2 infections/1915 patient days). Before implementation the CLABSI rate was 3.62/1,000 catheter days (7 infections/1935 catheter days). Rates of *vancomycin-resistant enterococci* (VRE) infections dropped by nearly 90%.

Authors of the UMHC poster were Pam Farris, RN, MSN, OCN and Wendy Mosier, RN, ADN.

In the second study presented at APIC, SwabCap allowed for a 42% reduction in CLABSI rates at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital (Pinehurst, N.C.) -- even after the hospital had achieved infection rates lower than the national average.

FirstHealth implemented SwabCap to improve its time-consuming manual protocol for disinfecting IV connector injection ports. Compliance with the older, manual method was less than 10%.

After SwabCap was implemented, Moore Regional's CLABSI rate for the 15-month period ending in March 2011 (latest data available) was 0.67/1,000 catheter days, 42% below its already-low rate of 1.16/1000 catheter days for 2009.

A survey showed that 87% of nurses chose the cap over the manual disinfection method. The poster author was Jayne Lee, RN, MPH, CIC, Director of Infection Control/Patient Safety at the hospital.

The third poster described development of an infographic for educating clinicians about use of a disinfection cap.

The infographic noted that the disinfection cap:

- Enhances compliance with the Joint Commission requirement for a connector disinfection protocol;
- Prevents touch and airborne contamination, which manual disinfection cannot;
- Achieves up to a 6-log reduction in pathogens, compared to the typical 3-log or less reduction when manual disinfection is used.

Poster author Nancy L. Moureau, RN, BSN, CRNI, CPUI, VA-BC concluded that the infographic is helpful in educating clinicians about a more effective means of disinfecting connectors, which in turn may allow a reduction in CLABSIs. Moureau is CEO of PICC Excellence, Inc., a vascular access education company.

The APIC conference was held June 27-29 in Baltimore.

Resources:

YouTube: Moureau video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-Kr0wR_Fo4

About Excelsior Medical Corp.

Excelsior Medical Corporation is a privately held company with a primary focus on innovative catheter maintenance products that may reduce infection, medication errors and healthcare costs. The company makes SwabCap, SwabKIT™ and SwabFlush™ for disinfection and protection of IV needleless connectors. Formed in 1989, Excelsior also

manufactures and sells prefilled saline flush syringes, prefilled heparin flush and lock syringes, and syringe pump systems to customers throughout the world.

For more information, call 800-487-4276 or access www.excelsiormedical.com.

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