



The Roles of Transparency and Public Accountability in Improving Quality and Safety

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Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Facts

- 1,100 Physicians and 450 Graduate Trainees
- Major teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School
- Thirteen Departments and One Institute
- Anesthesia
- Cardiovascular Institute
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Medicine

- Neonatology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics/GYN
- Orthopedics
- Pathology

- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Surgery





Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Facts

Beds

Medical/Surgical	389
Critical Care (all)	77
Psychiatry	25
Obstetrics	60
Neonatal ICU	34
Nursery	64
Total Inpatient Beds	649





Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Facts

Inpatient Discharges	39,000
Inpatient Surgery Cases	10,350
Open Heart Cases	700
Babies Delivered	5,000
Outpatient Visits	905,000
Emergency Department Visits	49,400
Outpatient Surgery Care	14,200





What is the Function of a Healthcare System?

- The goal of the healthcare delivery system is to improve the health status of the population while conserving scarce resources.
- Healthcare interventions occur one patient at a time.
- "Triple Aim": Population health, Patient experience, and COST per capita





TRANSPARENT

easily understood, very clear, obvious, open, without guile or concealment, frank, candid





ACCOUNTABLE

responsible, able to be explained





Transparency

Transparency's major societal and strategic imperative is to provide creative tension within hospitals so that they hold themselves accountable. This accountability is what will drive doctors, nurses, and administrators to seek constant improvements in the quality and safety of patient care.

Paul Levy
CEO, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
www.runningahospital.blogspot.com





BIDMC's Path To Transparency and Public Accountability

- Became a priority in 2006
- Let patients or referring physicians see for themselves how we are doing
- Motivate staff and doctors to improve performance
- Drive out fear, instill trust
- Take control of data presentation and the message
- In addition to required certifications by Department of Health, JCAHO, and many others





Principles of Reporting

- Meaningful to patients understandable, relevant, and useful
- Intellectually honest report the bad and the good
- Timeliness of data
- Statistically valid; compare to benchmarks
- Credible to medical staff





Preparations

- Senior Staff and Board of Governors
 - retreats and educational events
 - real time observation of care being given
- Discussion and Debate
- Set overarching Goals





BIDMC Board Resolutions

- BIDMC will create a consistently excellent patient experience. We will measure ourselves based on national benchmarks and, by January 1, 2012, being the top 2% of hospitals in the country, based on national survey responses to "willingness to recommend." For this goal, BIDMC will measure itself against a national dataset of all hospitals.
- BIDMC will eliminate all preventable harm by January 1, 2012. We will accomplish this by continually monitoring all preventable and non-preventable occurrences of harm, and continuously improving our systems to allow the greatest opportunity to reduce harm.





Other Mechanisms

- Toyota LEAN Process Improvement
- The CALL OUT of errors and inefficiencies
- Board recognition of those reporting errors
- Quality Dashboards and trends at Board and Senior Staff meetings
- ANNUAL Symposium for Quality and Safety
- Integrate quality and safety needs into annual budget process
- Complete, immediate disclosure of harm to patient and / or family by the attending physician along with our apology



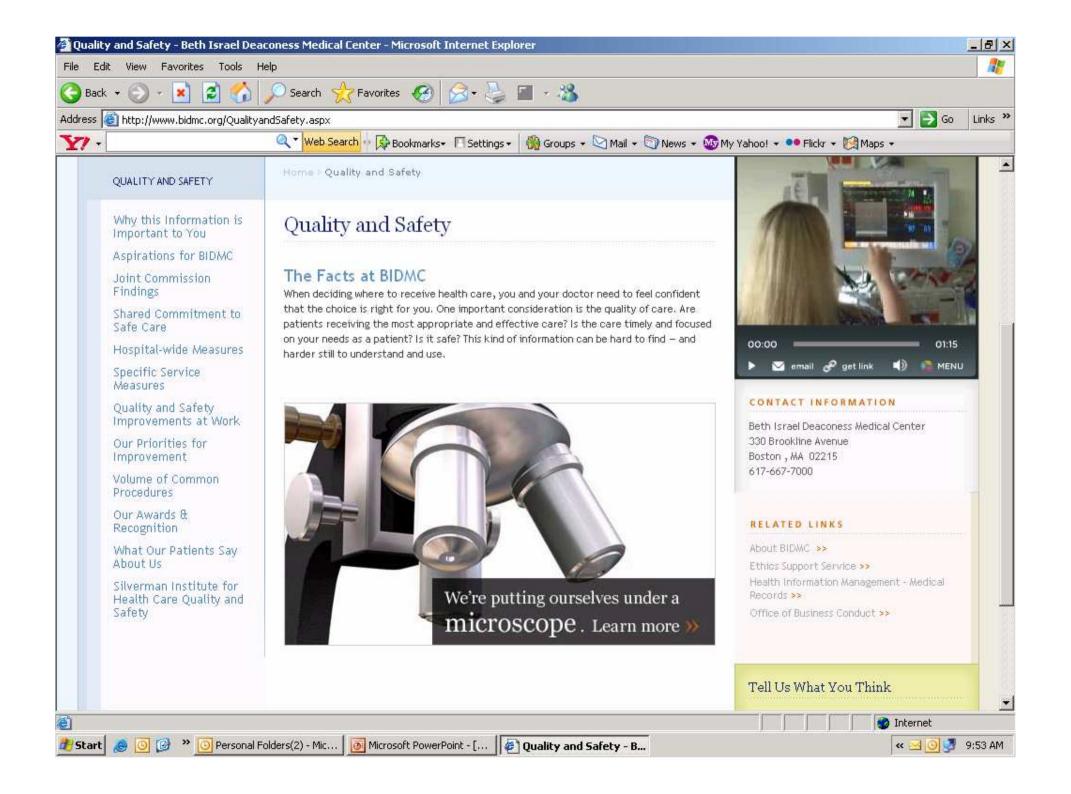


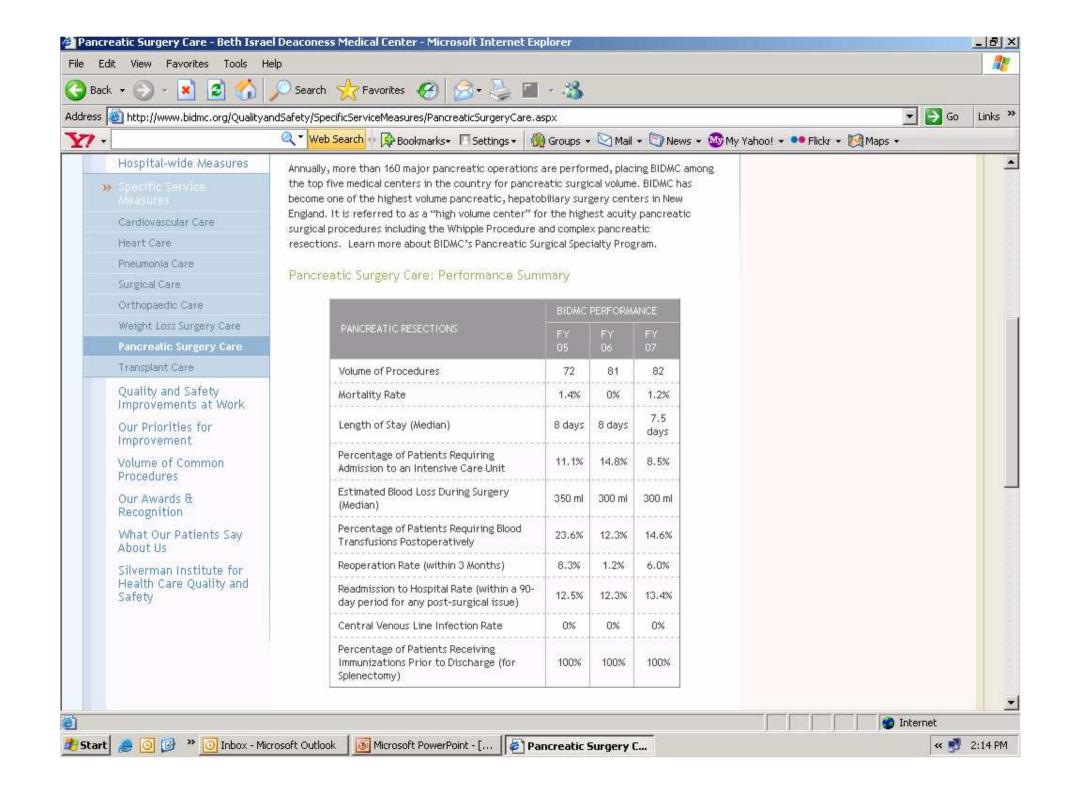
Individuals in High Performing Learning Organizations Internalize the Following Beliefs

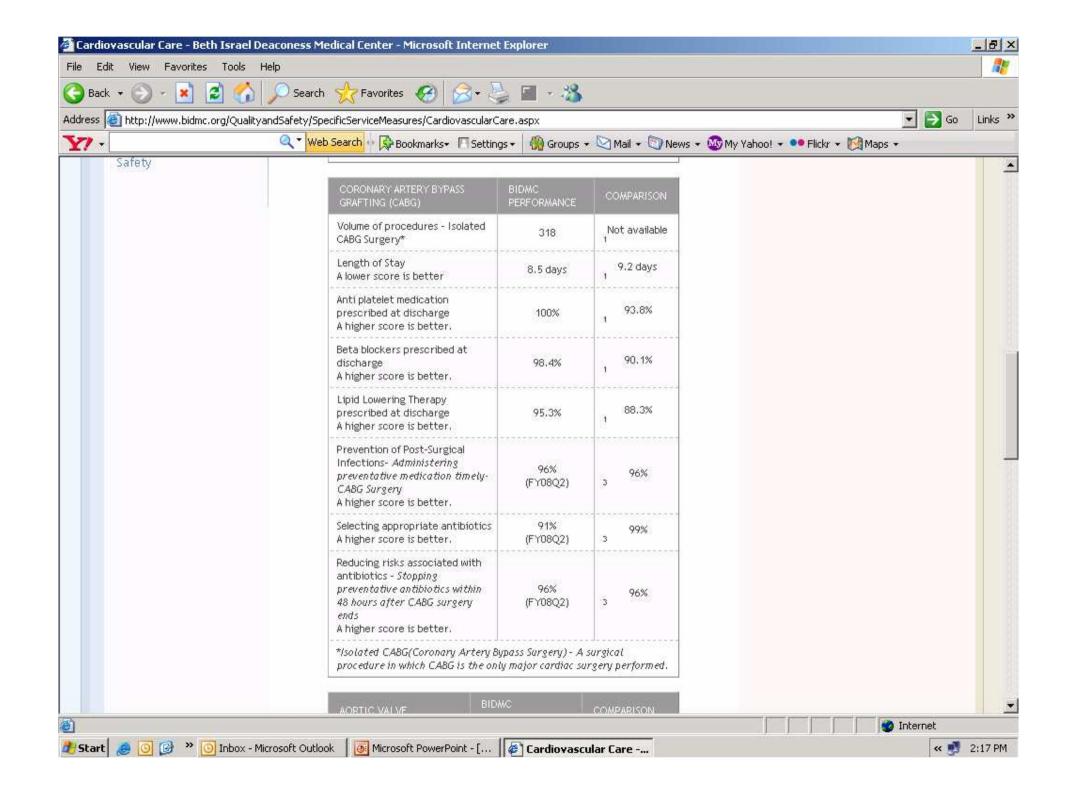
- We trust each other and respect the hard work each person does every day.
- We also know that the quality and efficiency of our services can and must be improved.
- It is part of everyone's daily job to identify and implement ways to improve our service.
- We recognize that services and processes are improved through a step-by-step evaluation of how we do our work.

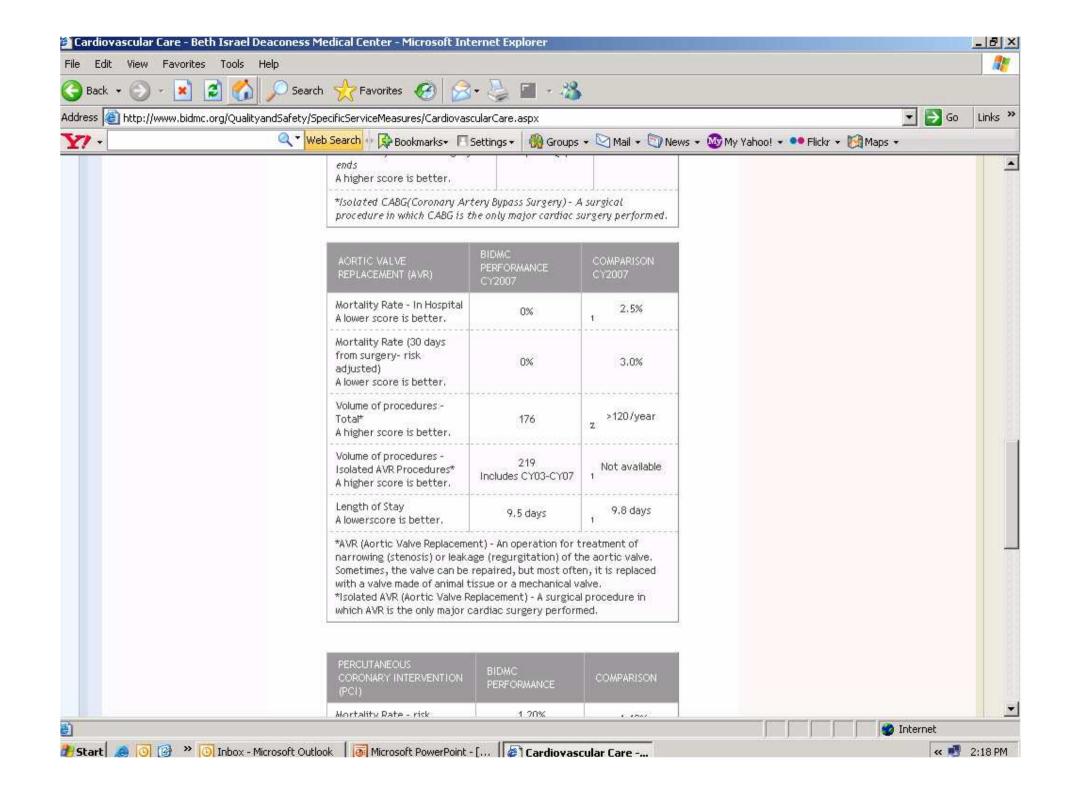


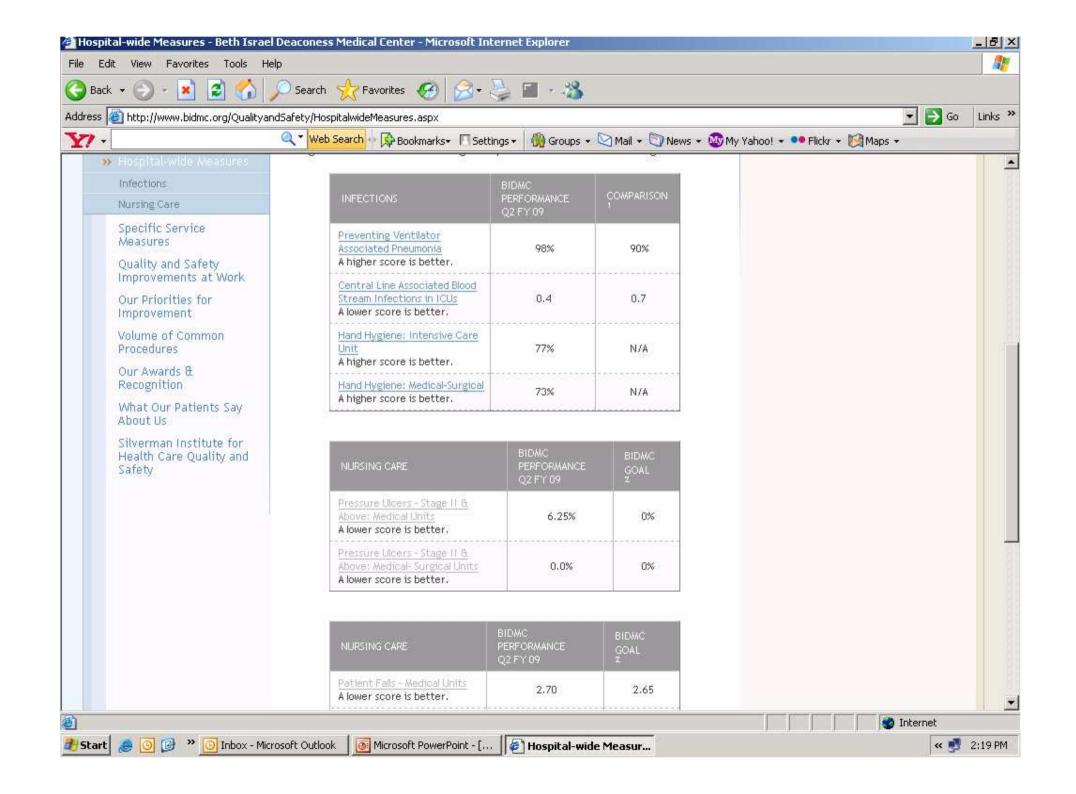


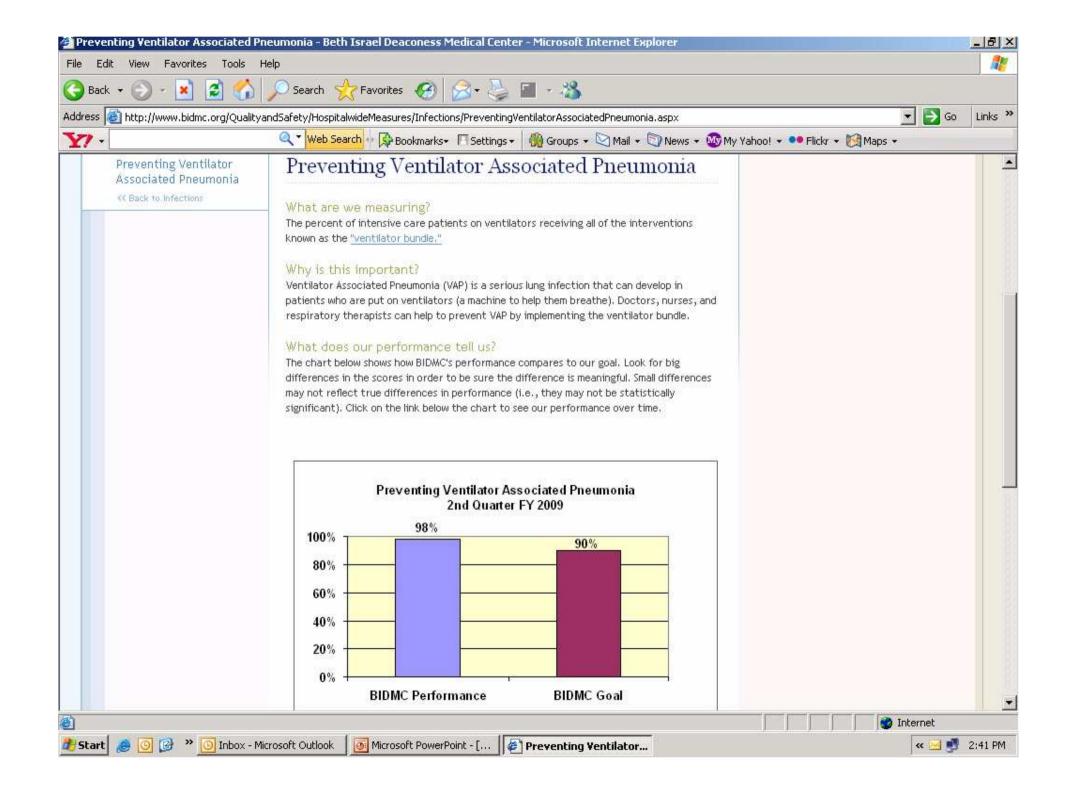


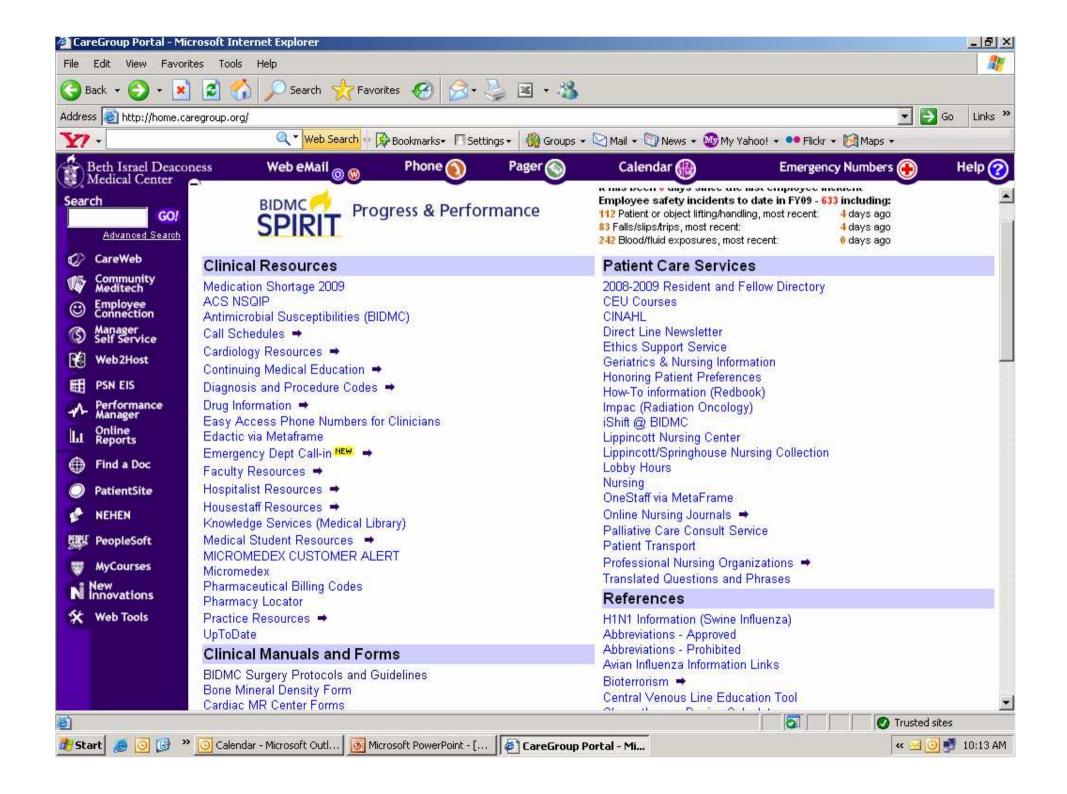


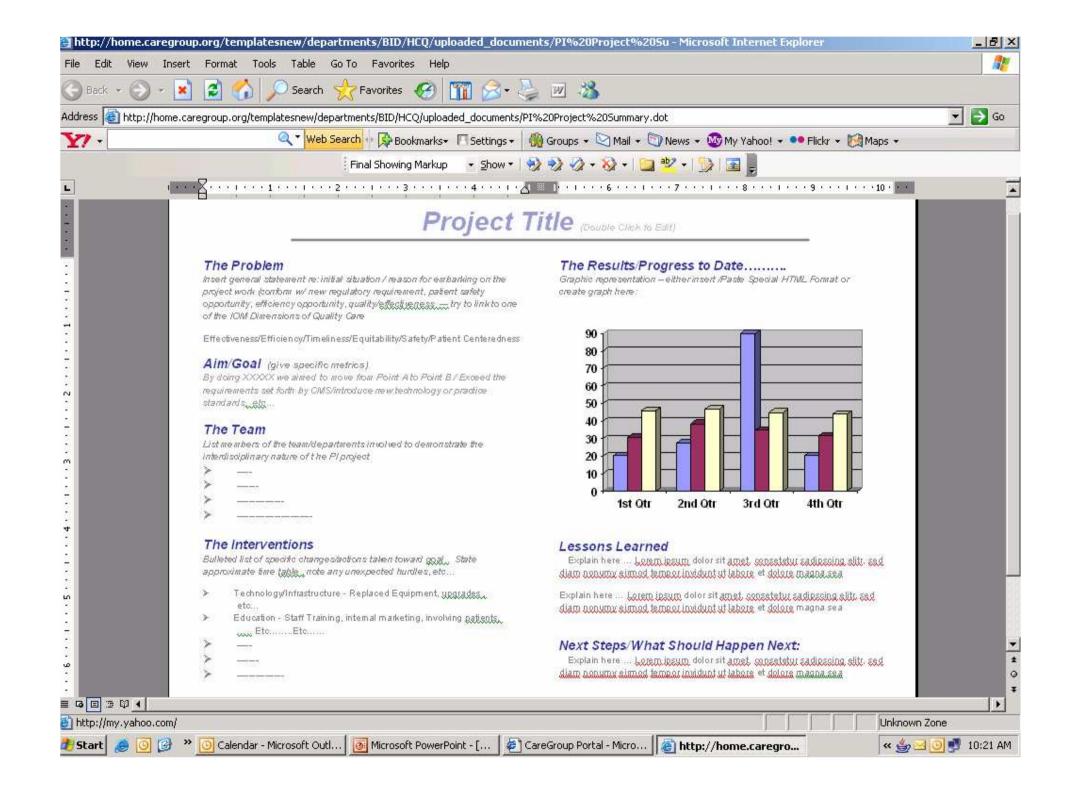














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Quality and Safety at Work

March, 2009

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For Health Care Quality and Safety







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The Facts @ BIDMC - Promoting Transparency

The Problem

With a growing interest in hospital level data and outcomes by regulators, public and private purchasers, patients and clinicians/staff looking to benchmark for excellence and best practice, a number of internet based sites have become available over the past several years. Often the posted results are out of date or without context/definition to guide the reader to the importance, definition of the metric or relevance to any decision making.

Aim/Goal

Coincident to the rising attention and availability of clinical data through public sites and third party vendors, in FY07, 'transparency' was identified as a goal within BIDMC's Annual Operating Plan. The charge was to:

- Inform the public: Meet need for useful, understandable information on quality of care.
- Improve quality: Engage medical staff in recognizing and addressing performance issues.
- Inform the medical community: Educate referring physicians about BIDMC departments, capabilities.
- Take the lead: Position BIDMC as a leader in driving public accountability for health care quality in Massachusetts.
- Manage the context: Take control over the message and the presentation of our data.

The Team

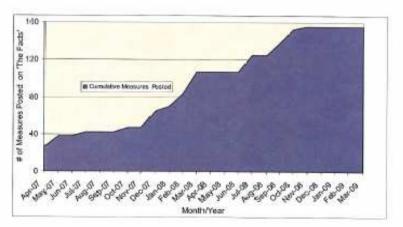
- Ken Sands, MD, MPH Sr. Vice President for Health Care Quality
- Kathy Murray, Director of Process Improvement HCQ
- Margaret Bernier, Project Manager, Transparency HCQ
- Judy Glasser, Sr. Vice President for Communications
- Jaime Lyons, Web/Marketing Manager
- Amy Barletta, Marketing Web Consultant

The Interventions

- Designed and posted a section dedicated to process and outcome measures prominently on BIDMC's Web site (The Facts @ BIDMC))
- Worked with multiple departments and clinical areas to combined hospitalwide measures, department-specific measures and patient satisfaction scores that were understandable, relevant, and useful to a patient and met the following criteria:
 - Endorsed by National Quality Forum or recommended by national organizations (e.g., JCAHO, CMS, AHRQ)
 - Statistically valid and reliable
 - Substantive (i.e. linked to patient's outcome or safety)
 - Inclusive (i.e. affects large proportion of patients)
 - Interpretable information
 - Had data and benchmarks available (whether national, regional, or local)
- Whenever possible, provided a visual way for reader to easily evaluate performance as favorable or unfavorable

The Results/Progress to Date

Below is a review of the cumulative number of process/outcome metrics added to The Facts site during the past 2 years:









Kathy Murray , Director Process Improvement kmurray2@bidmc.harvard.edu Margaret Bernier, Project Manager mabernie@bidmc.harvard.edu

Follow-Up on CT Chest Scans

The Problem

Inadequate documentation of results notification of CT chest scans can lead to missed or delayed diagnosis of lung cancer and other lung diseases.

Aim/Goal

To ensure that all CT chest scans ordered by the Pulmonary Division have results notification documented within 30 days.

The Team

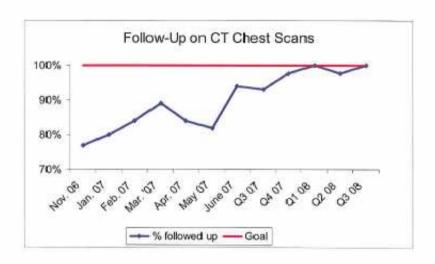
David Roberts, MD, Naama Neeman, MSc, Joanne Schulze, J. Woodrow Weiss, MD, Mark D. Aronson, MD

The Interventions

- Reached a consensus among the Pulmonary faculty physicians on the importance of tracking this QI measure.
- Set a goal of 100% documentation of results notification of CT chest scans within 30 days.
- Data collection: reviewed the electronic medical records of patients who had a CT chest scan ordered by a Pulmonary physician to determine whether the provider documented notification of the test result within 30 days by contacting the patient and/or PCP. Data collection included the review of notes, sheets, and letters 2 weeks prior to CT chest scan result, as well as within the subsequent month following the test.
- Dissemination of data and feedback: used individual score cards to report clinicians' performance and provide quarterly feedback on individual performance compared to the performance of the group.

The Results

Documentation of results notification within 30-cays of CT chest scans ordered by Pulmonary physicians was 77% at baseline (Nov. '06) and has increased to 100% by Q3 2008 (Jul.-Sep.). For the past year (Q4 2007 – Q3 2008) documentation rates have constantly been between 98% and 100%.



Lessons Learned

When implementing an improvement project it is important to choose measurable outcomes, have the support of strong QI leadership, and apply specific interventions such as periodic QI review meetings and quarterly individual report cards.







Reduction of Hypoglycemia in Postoperative Cardiac Surgery Patients on Insulin Infusions

The Problem

Tight glycemic control leads to decreased mortality and morbidity after card ac surgery. An undesirable outcome of insulin infusion can be hypoglycemia. While maintaining the effectiveness of our insulin protocol, we recognized the importance of improving the safety of this therapy.

Aim/Goal

Our goal was to maintain tight glycemic control while decreasing the incidence of hypoglycemia from 7% to 2%.

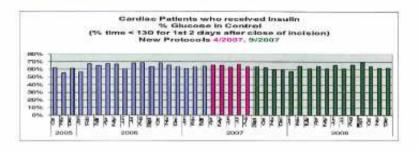
The Team

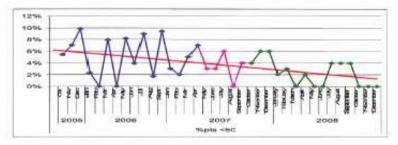
- Margie Serrano RN MS
- Mark Courtney NP
- Kamal Khabbaz MD
- The entire staff of the CVICU

The Interventions

- Treatment raised glucose goal from 80-110 mg/dl to 90-120 mg/dl
- Tool-redesigned the protocol for easier use, emphasizing how to manage falling glucose
- Education-staff training about revised protocol
- Feedback loop-monthly feedback to nursing and medical staff, including detailed case review of each instance of hypoglycemia.

The Results/Progress to Date





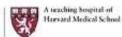
Lessons Learned

- Feedback and team flexibility lead to protocol adjustments, which yield improved outcomes.
- A multidisciplinary approach with clear communication among team members ensures focus and improves adherence to protocol.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- Continue to monitor results and adjust protocol to data.
- Improve effectiveness and safety of transition from insulin infusion to subcutaneous insulin throughout the postoperative course.







Reducing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia One Step at a Time

The Problem

Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) occurs in 10-20% of patients ventilated 2 days or longer and doubles a patient's risk of death. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) recommends implementation of a VAP bundle and following oral care best-practices to reduce the incidence of VAP cases.

Aim/Goal

By following best-practices and dedicating resources to VAP prevention we aim to reduce the number of VAP cases that occur at BIDMC.

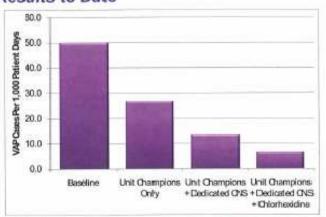
The Team

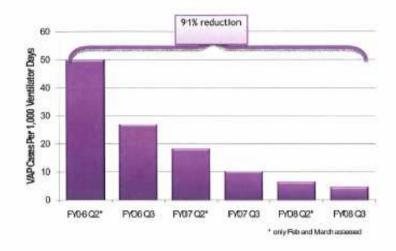
Kirsten Boyd, RN MHA; Sabrina Cannistraro, MS; Pete Clardy, MD; Jane Foley, RN; Jean Gillis, RN MS; Michael Howell, MD MPH; James Hurst, MD; Luci Lima, RN; Joe Previtera, RRT; Ray Ritz, RRT; Kristin Russell, RN; Margie Serrano, RN; Dianne Soulliard, Pharm.D.; Daniel Talmor, MD MPH

The Interventions

- Identifying unit champions to collect data regarding compliance with the VAP bundle
- Designating dedicated Clinical Nurse Specialists who promote, monitor and disseminate VAP bundle compliance information and who educate the healthcare team
- Promoting good oral care practice (every 4 hours), including the use of Chlorhexidine, and monitoring compliance

The Results to Date





With each new intervention aimed at reducing VAP there was a marked reduction in VAP cases from 50 per 1000 patient days at baseline to 4.6 per 1000 patient days after all the interventions to-date and an overall 91% reduction in VAP rates in just over 2 years.

Lessons Learned

- Reducing VAP requires dedicated local resources
- Empowering unit based champions helps leac practice change with their peers
- Communicating the data helps the healthcare team understand the rationale for changing practice
- Implementing a rigorous VAP prevention program takes multidisciplinary, dedicated resources and an overall culture of quality

Next Steps

- Reinforce importance of VAP bundle and oral care compliance
- Implement and evaluate oral care every 2 to 4 hours for ventilated patients





Positive Outcomes From Transparency

- We did it
- Internal reception has been positive
- Press coverage and blogging are positive
- Created more trust, openness, and enthusiasm for improving our work
- Created urgency and accountability at multiple levels





Challenges of Being Transparent

- Knowing the correct denominator in order to accurately reflect the context
- Being first to report errors may create impression that care is worse than a competitor
- If you are successful in driving out fear, the number of errors reported increases at first
- May be overwhelmed with good ideas for improvement projects – resources are limited
- Competitors may be angry and defensive -





Final Observations

"...no matter what the investment of time, effort, and resources, what we create is riddled with imperfections." but "...no matter how flawed, with an energetic, open-minded commitment to discovery, we can always do better."

Every error is a treasure.

1. Steven J. Spear, Chasing the Rabbit, 2009, p.363.



