HEALTHCARE PURCHASING NEWS
Reprinted from April 2012

INFECTION PREVENTION

Excerpted from:

Battlefield microbic: When IPs gain upper hand

by Susan Cantrell, ELS

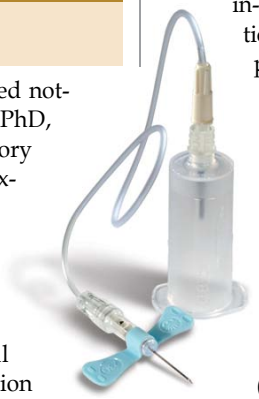
Infection-prevention success stories abound! It is exhilarating and gratifying to know that so many facilities are experiencing such significant successes in the battle against healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs). Take heart and inspiration from the stories related below. You can win the battle, too. Next year, we hope to hear your facilities' success stories.

Needlesticks

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
West Islip, NY

Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center is a 537-bed not-for-profit facility on Long Island. Mary Hotaling, PhD, MT(ASCP)DLM, quality systems manager, laboratory services, explained their problem. "Our facility was experiencing wingset-related needlesticks three times as often as needlesticks with other phlebotomy devices, 3.4 versus 1.1 per 100,000 devices purchased."

How they did it: Their first step was to create a cross-departmental team, under the auspices of the sharps safety committee, including the clinical laboratory safety officer, the nurse director of infection control, and the nurse coordinator of employee health services.



BD Vacutainer Push Button Blood Collection Set

The 5+-year campaign started in 2002, as they collected and analyzed needlestick-injury reports. "The results were published in the February 2009 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety,*" said Hotaling. "Before we could find a solution to our problem," explained Hotaling, "we first had to better understand why and how these accidents were occurring. We collected all available data and conducted one-on-one interviews with workers who experienced a needlestick to uncover critical details about the circumstances surrounding the accident."

"After employee retraining on the existing manual resheathing wingset failed to solve the problem, we decided to explore a safer safety wingset. Our search led us to trial the BD Vacutainer Push Button Blood Collection Set. This retractable device featured in-vein activation and a more reliable single-handed activation mechanism to address the problem-prone steps in the process. Previously, 85% of our phlebotomy needlesticks occurred after the phlebotomy step prior to and/or during safety-feature activation. After implementation, 71% occurred during phlebotomy, with patient movement, while none occurred during safety feature activation."

"As anticipated, the new retractable wingset did meet some resistance, because it cost 40% more than the first-generation device. To mitigate concern, we performed an in-depth cost-effectiveness analysis that looked at both projected reported *and* unreported needlesticks (estimated at 58%). This reported rate-adjusted cost-effectiveness was in line with estimates of previously introduced safety devices."

Results: Data collected from March 2006 to January 2012 on the more than 1 million devices purchased after implementing a second-generation safety wingset "showed a 64% reduction in reported phlebotomy wingset needlesticks, from 3.76 to 1.36 per 100,000 wingsets purchased," said Hotaling. HPN

Reprinted with permission, *Healthcare Purchasing News*, April 2012