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Announcements

EQIC celebrates nurses and hospitals this month (and always)!

The impact nurses make on healthcare is unparalleled. Each May, the [American Nurses Association](#) celebrates **National Nurses Month** by promoting understanding and appreciation of nurses' invaluable contributions. This year's theme, "You Make a Difference," honors the various nursing roles and the positive impact of nurses on everyone's lives.

Nurses bring vast knowledge and expertise to every healthcare setting, serving patients and communities throughout the continuum of life and care. Nurses truly make a difference by influencing and shaping health policy decisions that ensure all people have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.

National Hospital Week, May 7 to 13, is an opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and healthcare workers and the innovative ways they support their communities. This year's theme is "We are healthcare," and the [American Hospital Association](#) has prepared social media graphics and engagement tools to help you share the work you do and the impact of hospitals, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EQIC recognizes the important role of hospitals in our communities and honors the work of all our nurses and healthcare professionals during this time and all year round. Thank you for all you do to keep patients safe!



Tools and resources

Best practices for reducing SSIs

Recent data indicate increasing issues with surgical site infections in our hospitals, which could be related to a number of root causes. EQIC encourages you to review your SSI data to determine the root cause(s) and develop an action plan based on the findings. Hand hygiene, environmental cleanliness and following the Basic Safe Surgery Bundle will significantly reduce the risk of potential SSIs. Best practices for eliminating SSIs include:

- **Antimicrobial prophylaxis:** Maintain therapeutic levels of the prophylactic antimicrobial agent in serum and tissues throughout the operation, using weight-based dosing and re-dosing as appropriate.
- **Skin preparation:** Use an antiseptic agent with alcohol for skin preparation unless contraindicated.
- **Normothermia:** Maintain core temperature greater than or equal to 36°C during the perioperative period.
- **Glucose control:** Maintain a blood glucose level less than 200 mg/dl on the day of surgery and through the postoperative period.
- **Increased perioperative oxygenation:** Maintain optimal tissue oxygenation throughout the perioperative period by administering supplemental oxygen intra-operatively and postoperatively.
- **Clean, standardized fascia close:** Change gown, gloves and surgical instruments for fascia closure.
- **Wound management:** Standardize wound management strategy for all colorectal surgeries.

For more details about specific bundle elements, please refer to the [EQIC website](#). Your EQIC project manager also is available for assistance.

Education

TODAY!

Thursday, May 11

[Partnering with patients and families to prevent all-cause harm](#)

1 - 2 p.m.

Preventing all-cause harm continues to be a national priority. In 2016, an estimated 2.7 million harm events affecting hospital inpatients occurred, leading to more than 80,000 deaths at a cost of nearly \$29 billion. According to CMS, nearly 44% of these events and deaths could have been prevented. Studies have shown that people who are more involved in their care tend to be more satisfied, more likely to understand their acute and chronic conditions, and are able to make informed decisions that can better help them.

The May CMS Community of Practice Call features strategies for hospitals and patients/families to engage as partners to ensure the right care is being delivered to the right patient at the right time to foster improvements in patient safety, healthcare quality, patient outcomes and equity, while minimizing staff burden.

Questions

Please contact [Cathleen Wright](#) or your [EQIC project manager](#) with any questions.

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One Empire Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144