



Petersburg Medical Center

Infection Prevention and Control Report September 2024

Workforce Wellness

Amy O'Connor will join us as a temporary full-time consultant Infection Preventionist during the week of September 23. Rachel Kandoll, RN, has been hired to work alongside Amy and will train to become our permanent Infection Preventionist. Rachel will initially work part-time, meeting regulatory requirements, with the potential to transition to a full-time role in the future.

Community Engagement

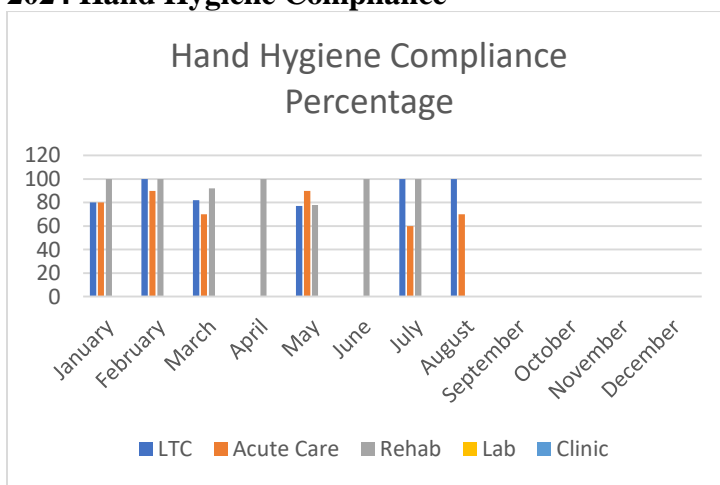
On August 29, Rebecca Hamel and Anna Frick from the Alaska Section of Epidemiology visited us for an ICAR (Infection Control Assessment and Response). They reviewed our Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program, toured our facility, and observed our environment, staff, cleaning, laundry, and patient care procedures. Their full report will be available within six weeks. During the exit conference, they praised our teamwork, adherence to procedures, and good hand hygiene. Gilda in EVS received special recognition for her excellent work while cleaning a patient room. They provided some reminders on maintaining good practices and noted that the most significant infection prevention risks stem from our aging facility, which would require a complete remodel to meet current infection control standards.

Patient Centered Care.

We experienced a COVID outbreak in our LTC facility starting on August 11. An outbreak is defined as three or more staff members or one resident with a confirmed COVID diagnosis. We had four staff members and three residents test positive, all of whom have since recovered. We tested all residents twice weekly throughout the outbreak and have not had any new cases for over two weeks, indicating the outbreak is now over.

Over the next month, we will focus on administering respiratory vaccines to ensure all residents are offered protection against influenza, COVID, and RSV.

2024 Hand Hygiene Compliance



LTC 2024 Infection Prevention Metrics:

- Urinary Tract Infections (UTI): 1
- Catheter associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI): 1
- Clostridium Difficile infections: 0
- Covid-19 infections: 3

Influenza infections: 0

Facility

As mentioned above, our physical environment presents significant challenges to following current IPC guidelines. For example, meeting current standards in laundry processing would require a complete remodel of the laundry area. While our staff do an excellent job of adhering to infection control principles to prevent the spread of infection through laundry, they must work much harder than if they were operating in a properly engineered space.

Financial Wellness

Additional staffing will increase costs but will enhance IPC quality, help prevent burnout, and allow me to focus on other aspects of my role.

Submitted by: Jennifer Bryner, MSN, RN
