
Date: February 2014

“If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

What would you say if out of 536,100 people 58,220 were killed?

What would you say if out of 165,000 people 32,223 were injured or killed?

If faced with statistics like the above how would you react? I know how the world reacted when presented with the above data.

The above are the statistics of American soldiers in the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

How about out of over 4.3 million flights there have been no fatalities?

This is Air Canada’s statistics going back to 1983. Impressive. They might be late for take off or arrival or lose your bags BUT they are focused on getting you to your destination safely.

Now how about 220,000 out of 3 million being injured?

How about 8,000 of these 220,000 dying?

This is the number of hospital-acquired infections across Canada out of the 3 million patients admitted annually.

MRSA, VRE, and C Difficile are three bacteria commonly found in Canadian hospitals. They can cause symptoms ranging from asymptomatic colonization to septic shock and death.

Each year about 8,000 Canadians die from hospital-acquired infections; 220,000 others get infected.

If the injury and death statistics are not enough to promote action, how about cost to the system? Treatment is more costly than prevention; estimated costs for 2004 were \$82 million. Costs are estimated at \$129 million for 2010. That's \$12,216 per infected MRSA patient per year due to:

- Prolonged hospitalization
- Special control measures
- Expensive treatments
- Extensive surveillance

How can this be reduced and/or prevented? **Washing our hands.**

The four moments of Hand Hygiene are:



Aside from washing your hands in accordance with the above process you may also need to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

A handy video to watch on how to properly put on and take off a PPE was produced by Grey Bruce Health Unit at <http://youtu.be/m9HoLrvVNvk>

Basic process to follow when donning (Putting on) PPE - Wash hands, put on gown, put on mask, wear eye protection then put on gloves

When “Doffing” PPE - take off gloves and gown, wash hands, remove eye protection and mask, wash hands.

Handwashing and HAIs are two main indicators we track daily, weekly, monthly and annually. The 3 additional indicators listed below that we track form part of what we term our “HARM INDEX” are:



Our corporate goal and really the only goal is to achieve ZERO in all of these indicators. Only then can we be achieving our Vision of Outstanding Care....No Exceptions! It is not Outstanding Care...with one or two exceptions.

Each patient that is harmed is one patient too many!

By measuring and tracking this data we have the ability and will improve. Again – You Can't Manage what you don't Measure !

I want to thank Michael Ray, former Board Chair of Windsor Regional Hospital for giving me the idea on how to present the data of hospital acquired infections and relate it to a real world example.

For a review of how WRH is doing with respect to the above indicators and others go to http://www.wrh.on.ca/Site_Published/wrh_internet/RichText.aspx?Body.QueryId.Id=54858&LeftNav.QueryId.Categories=736

