

International Care Pathways Conference

Debating a primary goal of care pathways
in reducing the length of stay / improving
the quality of patient care

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Using care pathways to enable planning with the patient, mitigate risks

- Patient well informed to make the right choices
- Safe quality care
- Screening prior to surgery
- Risk factors taken into account



Using care pathways to assess risk throughout the patient journey

- 18½ weeks doesn't always correlate with full recovery post treatment
- 44% of foundation trusts didn't reduce bacteraemias by half the 2004 number – not a challenging target
- Did well on 18½ weeks target
- Concern on *C.diff* target – 30% reduction is not challenging
- Need risk assessments, involvement of patient



Using care pathways to involve all care givers in planning patient care

- If patient has been or is MRSA or C.diff positive then be open and discuss patients' needs with all those involved in care
- Discuss with patient
- This must form part of the integrated care pathway
- Screening will reveal *staph* positive patients, this will need to be discussed



Using care pathways to give quality and dignity, and to make care safer

- All healthcare providers and carers are aware of how to mitigate the risks
- Reduce recovery time and help the patient and their family understand how to assist the recovery process
- Ensure patient information leaflets are clear and easy to understand – C.diff patients can reinfect themselves – do your leaflets tell them this?
- Emphasise the importance of hand-hygiene

Lincolnshire Care Pathway Partnership

PICTORIAL CARE PATHWAY FOR PEOPLE WITH MRSA

IDENTIFYING MRSA



MRSA has been identified from swabs taken from your nose or skin.



Source Isolation/Blood Precautions
Visitors must report to the Nurses' Station
BEFORE entering a patient's room

You may be cared for in a single room.

Further swabs will be taken during your stay to establish if the MRSA has gone.



TREATING



If you are a skin carrier you will be advised to bathe or shower for 5 days using an antiseptic wash. Hair should be washed twice in this period with the same solution.

To treat MRSA in your nose a nasal ointment will be applied 3 times a day for 5 days.



You may be given antibiotics either orally or through a drip.

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF GERMS



Clean hands can reduce the spread of germs. Use the hand rub solution at your bedside. Rub into hands as you would when normal hand washing. There is no need to rinse off with water.

The doctors and nurses will be available to answer questions. A leaflet about MRSA is also available.



VISITORS



Visitors should wash their hands or use the available hand rub on entering your room and before leaving.



Please ask visitors not to sit on your bed.



Keep your belongings to a minimum. This makes general cleaning easier.

DISCHARGE HOME

You may be asked to continue with treatment at home.



This Pathway has been developed to give you a guideline of what to expect during your hospital stay. Variations may occur based on your individual situation.

What happens if we don't involve everyone?

- This lady left hospital after beating an MRSA surgical wound to her liver and MRSA pneumonia
- The photograph was taken at home 3 weeks before she died





No care pathway

- Patricia's notes were in disarray – no follow up to MRSA positive swabs taken in hospital or by the District Nurse
- Patricia was a cancer patient who was immune suppressed – Oncology were unaware
- This lady who was responding well to treatment, was MRSA positive on the day she was overwhelmed with signs of an infection and then died



An integrated care pathway may have saved this lady

- Care pathways should follow a patient throughout their journey
- It gives reassurance to the patient and the family that the best care will be delivered if planned and discussed
- Family and care givers can be reassured that all the people involved in the health and social care of the patient have all the information they need