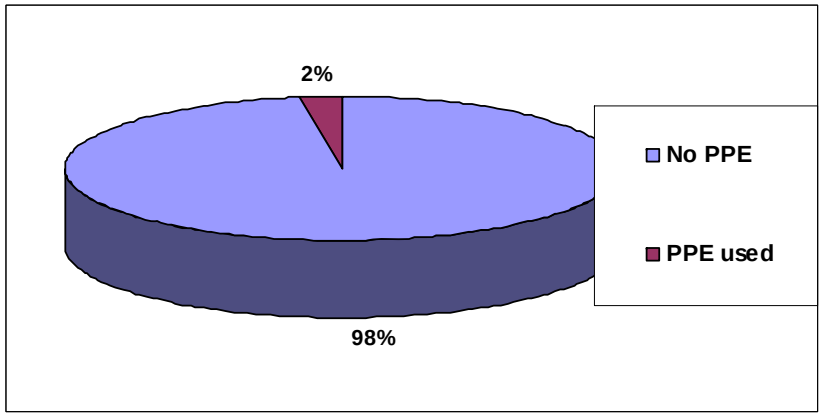
Improving Compliance With Use Of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Health Care Workers

The Problem

In FY 2008 there were a total of 83 bodily fluid exposures which involved employees. In 98% (81 cases) employees were NOT wearing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), thus exposing them to possible infections like Hepatitis B and HIV.



Aim/Goal

Decrease number of exposures by introducing CDC "Culture of Safety and Zero Tolerance", and eliminate all incidents of exposure in which employees were not wearing PPE. Exposure will still occur, but an employee will be protected.

The Team

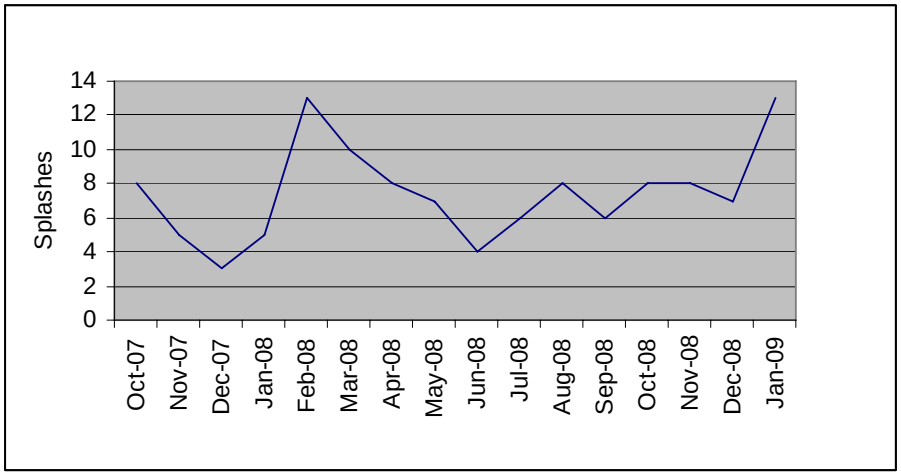
Jayne Sheehan, Kelly Orlando, Karen Bithell-Taylor, Suzanne Goon, Daniel McTigue, Matt Rabesa, Yana Lapkin, Mary O'Brien, Jill Rougan, Kim Sulmonte, Janet Lewis

The Interventions

Starting in FY 06: Kelly Orlando presents statistics to Environment of Care Committee.
7/07-11/07: Quality and Safety Council and Product Supply/Safety Group are presented with information regarding current PPE issues.
3/08: Kim Sulmonte, RN Health Care Quality, provided feedback from employee focus groups of clinicians from inpatient and OR/procedure areas who wear PPEs.
9/08: Leadership Group presentation by Jayne Sheehan
10/08: Jayne Sheehan leads multi-disciplinary committee to review current PPE policies to recommend change and outline staff expectations
10/08: Employee Health Center created poster for presentation outlining high frequency of splash events; identifying types of procedures engaged in and clinician position types.
12/08: Poster and products presented to ambulatory administration to address future education and practice.

The Results/Progress to Date

Splash numbers, 10/07-1/09



Creation of PPE Committee, chaired by Jayne Sheehan
Review and re-evaluation of PPE policy.

Lessons Learned

1. Some employees do not like the fit and/or look of current PPEs.
2. Lack of awareness by clinical staff regarding amount of potential risk.
3. Large contrast between protection policy and employees' actions.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

1. Trial of new products.
2. Improve policy to be more inclusive of actual events.
3. Educational blitz to re-enforce employee responsibility to wear PPE.
4. Shift toward unit-based responsibility.

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For More Information Contact
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