

## CENTRAL LINE-ASSOCIATED BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS (CLA-BSI) FACTS

### Common:

- 250,000 to 300,000 CLA-BSIs every year in the United States<sup>1</sup>

### Costly:

- US \$34,000 to \$56,000 per bloodstream infection<sup>1</sup>
- US \$2.3 billion annual healthcare cost<sup>1</sup>
- Prolongs hospitalization by five to 20 days<sup>2</sup>

### Deadly:

- One in six Canadian patients in hospitals acquire an infection<sup>3</sup>
- Up to 25 per cent of patients die<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 28,000 Americans die from CLA-BSIs annually<sup>2</sup>
- Hospital-acquired infections are the fourth leading cause of death behind stroke, heart disease and cancer<sup>3</sup>

### Preventable:

- Understand the causes of CLA-BSIs
- Implement current best practices to prevent CLA-BSIs
- Most common cause of CLA-BSIs: skin organisms (i.e., from the patient's skin flora or healthcare professionals hands)
  - Skin organisms cause 60 per cent of CLA-BSIs<sup>4</sup>
- Most common source of microbes: hands
  - Educate healthcare professionals on proper hand hygiene
- Ensure compliance
- 2009: Less than 40 per cent of health care workers comply with proper hand hygiene procedures<sup>3</sup>

### Interesting Facts:

- As of April 30, 2009, all Ontario hospitals are required to post quarterly CLA-BSI rates publicly to further promote accountability and transparency within the health system<sup>5</sup>
- In Quebec, intensive care units with 10 beds or more are required to track and report central line infection rates<sup>6</sup>
- Microbes have a 3.6 billion year history on earth; humans have 100,000 years<sup>7</sup>
- Staphylococci are the most common cause of catheter-related infections<sup>8</sup>
- Most bloodstream infections in short-term catheters originate from the skin<sup>9</sup>

## Bibliography

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