Background & Significance
- NV-HAP (non-ventilator hospital acquired pneumonia) 2nd most common nosocomial infection—not currently reportable event
- Occurs in up to 20 patients per 1000 admissions
- Significant added risk of mortality, as much as 20-30%
- Added cost-up to $40,000 per episode
- Increased length of hospital stay of up to 7-9 days
- Two primary connections between oral care and pneumonia are bacteria and release of enzymes.
  - 1st: Colonized bacteria in mouth & on dental plaque
  - 2nd: Release of enzymes & cytokines
- Lack of adherence to oral care at all levels of care.
- Inflamatory process leads to development of pneumonia.
- Lack of quality, evidence-based products available within organization identified as need.
- Lack of specialized protocols within organization to drive nurse practice & patient education identified as need.
- Opportunity to provide oral care to all levels of care to improve quality of life, health, & wellness.
- Opportunity to partner with Delta Dental to improve the health of patients and people within our community.

Mission:
Improving the health of the people in our communities by providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time.

Best Practice & Methods
- Standardized Oral Care Product Changes
  - Better quality, more ergonomically sound toothbrush with soft bristles
  - Sodium bicarbonate, debridement agent toothpaste
  - Antiseptic, alcohol-free mouth rinse
  - Better quality oral swabs coated with sodium bicarbonate
  - 24-hour suction toothbrush kit for patients at risk for dysphagia or who cannot expectorate
  - Continued use of 24-hour suction toothbrush kit with chlorhexidine for ventilated patients
  - Education being provided to staff regarding the importance of oral hygiene in the prevention of hospital acquired pneumonia
- Improved patient education to empower patients to adopt improved oral care practices for themselves and their families.

Data Review in Progress
- Review of patients during 7 month period pre/post implementation of EBP change who had a ICD 9/10 codes at discharge, not present on admission.

Implications for Patients, Nurses, Organization & Community
- Nurses play a key role in facilitating the delivery & education of basic activity of daily care
- Potential decrease in illnesses/diseases associated with oral pathogens
- Potential significant decrease in hospital re-admissions for post-op/other pneumonia
- Potential significant decrease in length of stay, mortality, & costs
- Potentials for collaboration with community based agencies to continue to improve community health

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$175,000
in support of oral health for our patients

*References available on request