



Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections in the NICU



Background: Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs) are a preventable cause of morbidity in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The benchmark mean established by the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) was 4.1 per 1,000 line-days in 2007.

Initiative: Implement protocols, called *bundles*, for central line insertion and maintenance, and create a team dedicated to IV tubing changes, to reduce the incidence of CLABSIs

Goal: Less than 4 CLABSIs per 1,000 line-days

Outcome: Our NICU Team achieved an average monthly rate of 2.6 CLABSIs per 1,000 line-days in 2008, with zero CLABSIs in August and September. A dedicated team has been established for IV tubing changes.

