

Nosocomial Infections in the NICU

Background: Nosocomial infections, also known as hospital-acquired infections, can create serious health problems for patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Neonates can acquire these infections by contact with hospital staff, family members or environmental surfaces.

Initiative: Implement a set of infection control practices, called a *bundle*, including hand hygiene and reduction of environmental contaminants, to prevent these infections

Goal: Less than 3.55 infections per 1,000 patient-days, our mean pre-intervention rate

Outcome: Nosocomial infection rates in the NICU were reduced to below 3.55 per 1,000 patient-days for 10 out of the 12 months of 2008. The reduction for February through December was statistically different from the baseline ($p < 0.0258$).

