

No More Noro...Virus: Evidence-based Practice Project Calls for Changes to Hand and Environmental Hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment Protocols in a Pediatric Healthcare Setting



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BACKGROUND

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus and causes vomiting and diarrhea

In November 2022, nurse residents were caring for patients on a medical surgical unit where one patient diagnosed with norovirus was admitted

In rapid succession, 7 out of 16 of the nurse residents fell ill with norovirus symptoms

The hospital did not have norovirus-specific cleaning and isolation protocols, and the policy did not reflect current evidence or the most recent edition of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Red Book

PICO QUESTION

For medical center staff, would evidence-based norovirus education and policy changes increase staff awareness of necessary environmental hygiene and personal protective equipment required to care for norovirus-positive patients?

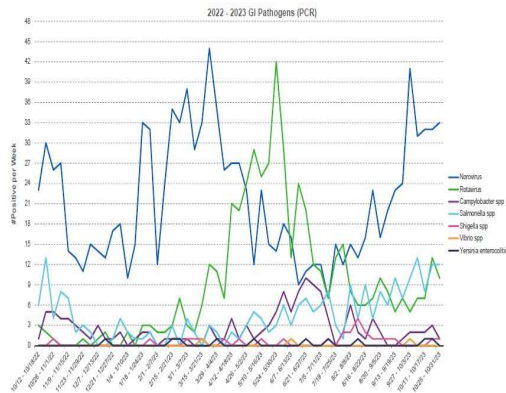


Figure 1. Annual data on positive GI pathogens among CCMC patients.

METHODS

After an extensive literature review, we recommended the following policy updates for the care of patients with norovirus:

- Soap and water only for hand hygiene
- Bleach solution for environmental hygiene
- Masking with active vomiting/diarrhea

These recommendations were presented to the nurse residency, hospital administration, the Director of Nursing Research, and the Director of Infection Control & Prevention. Additionally, we created an educational one-pager for hospital distribution.

Gastroenteritis: Viral, bacterial	Drainage / Secretion	Duration of Illness
Gastroenteritis C. Difficile Norovirus	Contact	Duration of Illness
Isolation Protocol for Diapered or Incontinent Patient		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene with soap and water only • Hang door sign • Isolation for all patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDI Bleach for surface cleaning • When caring for a norovirus patient with active vomiting, don a procedure mask 	

Figure 3. Updated policy – norovirus had previously been included in the "Gastroenteritis-viral, bacterial" section

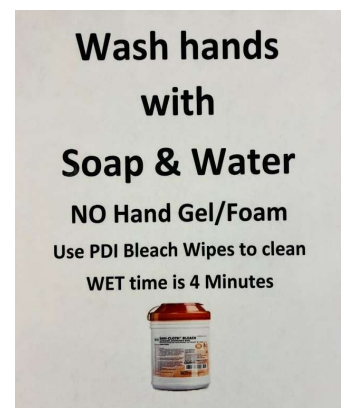


Figure 2a. Education handout created for house-wide publication
Figure 2b. Example of door signage for patients with norovirus

CONCLUSION

In October 2023, the Infection Control Committee officially approved our recommended updates to policy IN-16.

Staff members have reported that the policy change and education provided have changed their day-to-day practice.

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