



# VCH Team Based Quality Improvement Celebration & Collaboration

## **Team Based Quality Improvement Clinicians**

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## **Infection Control Team**

Rita Dekleer (Co-Chair-VGH) and Juliana Hatch (Co-Chair-VGH)

## **Crothall House Keeping Staff T8 and T9**

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VGH/TBQI/T8 and T9  
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# Cleaner Together: Developing a Cleaning Process For Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Isolation Carts



Team Based Quality  
Improvement (TBQI)  
and Infection Prevention and  
Control (IPAC) Collaboration –  
2019



## Who Are Your TBQI Clinicians...

- We are registered nurses working on General Surgery Wards T8 and T9
- Our patient population is diverse
- Our wards see multiple c-difficile cases per year
- Isolation carts are used to prevent transmission of c-difficile
- Identified c-difficile hot spot pre-trial were the isolation carts





# Infection Control Team

- Our role is to work with members of staff at VGH to prevent spread of infection
- We routinely audit wards
- Identified high incidence of c-difficile detected on isolation carts
- Raised the question : "How often do these carts get cleaned?"





# Crothall Housekeeping Team for T8 and T9

Crothall Supervisor for T8/T9 Sarabjit Sandhu  
and her Manager Tricia McDonnell

T8/T9 Housekeeping  
Staff: Rowena Rumingquel, Lilia Abelo,  
Emma Etrata, Arcelie Tabalba,  
Monalisa Tamag, and Myra Olavario





# Infection Prevention and Control

- Audited carts for present state
- Checked references from external sources
- Met with small user groups
- Brainstormed solutions
- Provide recommendations




The audit showed there were a variety of carts & they were a mess!





# Master Equipment Cleaning and Disinfection Manual

## VCH.0291 December 2018

Name of Equipment	Location of Cleaning	Responsible for Cleaning & Disinfecting and Frequency	Cleaning Instructions
<b>22. Cart, isolation</b> 	Point of use	DCU <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• daily clean &amp; disinfect surface areas</li><li>• once precautions discontinued empty cart, clean &amp; disinfect, and replenish cart</li></ul>	AHP wipes





# Infection Prevention and Control: How we Collaborated on the Isolation Cart Project?...



- The challenge of cleaning isolation carts was brought forward by Infection Control Rita Dekleer at a Joint TBQI Meeting
- Currently isolation carts are only being cleaned when visibly soiled
- T8 and T9 TBQI Clinicians volunteered to take on this challenge



# How We Did It...

- To make this improvement we discussed different strategies with staff for having isolation carts cleaned.
- We timed how long it would take a direct care user, the Registered Nurse, to clean an isolation cart
- This process took 23 minutes to complete
- We developed an isolation cart cleaning process and signage to decrease clutter and keep the bottom shelf empty



# T8/T9 Nurse Responsibility

- Nurses on T8/T9 were assigned the duty of Isolation Cart as a night duty
- 1 Nurse per floor/ night Monday-Friday
- Nurse was responsible for finding identified cart \* identified by day of the week
- Nurse responsible for emptying cart and placing in dirty utility room
- Nurse responsible for restocking clean cart and replacing on ward where needed

# Isolation Cart (PPE) Restocking Process

1 nurse per weekday night shift (check assignment sheet)

## Unload/Restock Isolation Cart

1. Find cart to be cleaned (labelled by days, i.e. Monday = Monday Cart)
2. Remove ALL items off of cart. Discard items if visibly soiled or GI precautions in effect.
3. Locate **Clean** cart underneath lockers and restock.
4. Bring dirty cart to Dirty Utility Room.
5. Initial your name in the calendar posted in Dirty Utility Room.
6. Place clean cart outside appropriate room. Set brakes.



Dirty (and empty) Isolation Cart

## Standard Isolation Cart Items

- 1 box of small gloves
- 1 box of medium gloves
- 1 box of large gloves
- 2 mesh bags of isolation gowns (found in service hallway)
- 1 box simple face masks
- 1 box face shield masks



Clean Restocked Cart





## An Integral Part of this Project :Crothall Housekeeping Responsibilities

- Our housekeepers on T8 and T9 were an integral part of making this project a success
- Housekeepers on T8/T9 cleaned and disinfected the empty isolation cart in the dirty utility room
- Housekeepers helped us keep track during this trial by documenting when carts were cleaned/ not available
- A huge thank you for all their hard work and for helping us record the data on our safety calendar



# Infection Control's Responsibility

- Infection Control was responsible for providing policy and guidelines to our team for what supplies can be reused
- Supported this process in meetings with Crothall
- Tested isolation carts pre and post trial for ATP
- Provided information about where C-difficile and ATP is most commonly found to support our process

**C DIFF HOT SPOT!**



**DO NOT USE BOTTOM SHELF**

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## Why this challenge was important to us?

- By increasing the frequency of isolation cart cleaning, we hoped to improve patient care by decreasing c-difficile transmission and incident rates on our wards
- This aligns with the TBQI outcomes for ongoing improvement and implementing an effective process for cleaning the isolation carts to provide safe quality care for our patients



# Feedback

## T8/T9 Nursing Feedback:

- Increased workload during weekdays challenging at times
- Cart labeling was confusing for staff
- Isolation carts appeared cleaner, less cluttered
- No K9 C. diff alerts during the last audit
- Additional education to staff and Crothall about process would have been beneficial

## Crothall Feedback:

- Not too labour intensive
- 5-7 minutes of cleaning per cart which is equal to 3.5 hours of labour per month per unit
- Approximately each isolation cart was cleaned twice during the one month trial on T8 and T9

# Challenges Moving Forward

- Budget Constraints
- Workload on Crothall and RNs
- Crothall Housekeeping Contract Negotiation
- Acceptance of new process





# Next Steps:

- ✓ IPAC presented this information at Regional Quality Patient Safety quarterly meeting
- ✓ TBQI team shared findings with Quality Council
- Now we need assistance via IPAC and QPS to move this forward via Business Initiatives and Services.

Thank you to all the team members!  
Any questions?

