HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

Hospital-acquired infections not only increase the mortality rate for ICU patients; they also substantially increase the cost (which is sometimes non-reimbursable) and effort required for the hospital affected. The cost is not insubstantial.

“Limiting exposure to devices is one way to reduce the risk of HAI.” - Christian Brun-Buisson, MD, PhD

### Cause Map

#### Problem
- **What**
  - Problem(s)
  - Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs)
- **When**
  - Ongoing
- **Where**
  - State, city: Houston, Texas
  - Facility, site: Intensive care units
  - Unit, area, equipment: Central catheter or mechanical ventilation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact to the Goals</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Safety</td>
<td>May not receive reimbursement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Additional treatment required for infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor, Time</td>
<td>Troubled length of stay in ICU (mean 8.1 days to 15.8 days)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Analysis

### Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.

### Basic Cause-and-Effect

- **Patient Safety Goal Impact**
  - Increase in mortality
  - Patient acquires infection

### Detailed Cause-and-Effect

Recent research has shown increased mortality rates for patients who acquire infections while in the hospital. In addition to higher mortality rates, hospital-acquired infections also significantly add to the cost of treatment.

### More Detailed Cause Map

Add detail as information becomes available.

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