

Aseptic Non-Touch Technique is not the same as riding a bike

Background

Aseptic preparation practices aren't like riding a bike. While riding a bike is a skill that is deeply ingrained in our brains due to procedural memory, research has shown a reduction in compliance to Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT) by nursing staff over time.

Production pharmacists currently undergo annual validation to ensure the standards are upheld. However, nursing staff don't currently have this practice in place.



Objective

To audit the aseptic technique of nursing staff preparing intravenous medications in the patient care area.

Methods

An audit tool based on the international standard for safe aseptic technique was developed to assess compliance of aseptic non-touch technique in the preparation of medications in the patient care area.

What we learned about nurses preparing ANTT

6%

performed hand hygiene



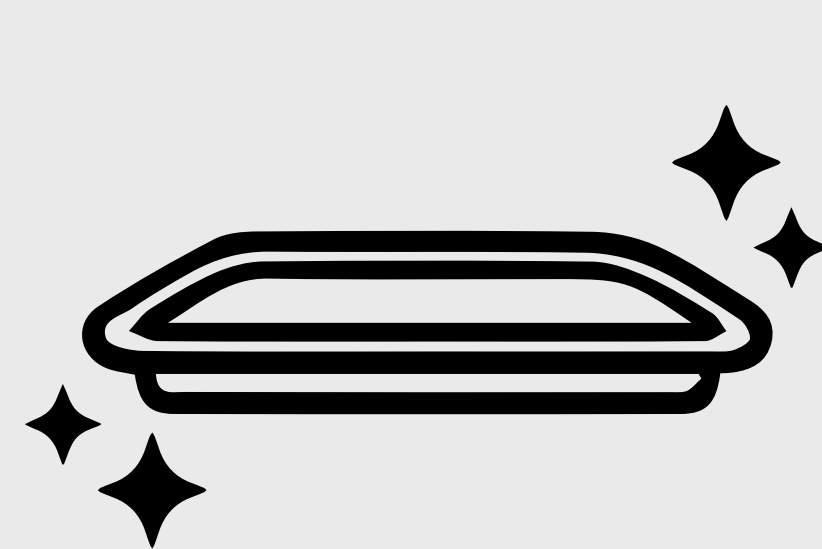
0%

cleaned the ANTT tray



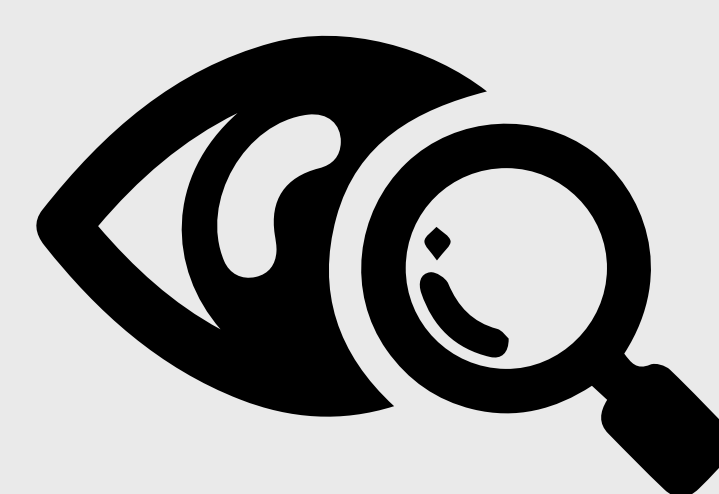
0%

placed all items in the clean zone



31%

were observed by a second nurse



82%

protected the critical area of the syringe, needle and vial



n=16



Discussion

This study has determined that one-off training for nurses in aseptic preparation practices left many opportunities for contamination. A lack of compliance to ANTT processes could be a contributing factor for nosocomial sepsis.

Annual assessments of technique, similar to those proven successful by pharmacists, should be implemented to avoid the potential contamination of parenteral products and ensure safe preparation in future.



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