

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Hamilton

Case study

“We were shocked when we saw the financial impact HAIs were having on our bottom line, but more importantly, we knew it was the right thing to do for our patients.”

Anne Dikon
Infection Preventionist

Making quality count

With a mission statement committing, “Excellence Through Service and Quality,” it is easy to see why Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Hamilton (*RWJ Hamilton*) recognized everyone needed to be on board with infection prevention initiatives.

Based on hospital data analyzed by the MedMined® Surveillance Advisor from CareFusion, blood infections were identified as a frequently occurring, higher cost infection type at the hospital.

This evidence prompted RWJ Hamilton to start a “Back to Basics” campaign, targeting everything from catheter insertion to specimen collection and skin preparation. These interventions alone have led to a blood infection rate reduction generating \$296,729 in avoided incremental direct costs and 564 additional days avoided over the past three quarters. More importantly, it has mobilized the whole hospital to recognize the impact healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) have and the role they can play to prevent them from occurring.

MedMined Surveillance Advisor consists of an automated patented tool for mining clinically meaningful infection data and an expert, dedicated clinical team to support hospitals’ programs in maximizing HAI-prevention opportunities. Clinical, laboratory and patient movement data are sent electronically from the hospital to the service around the clock.

The service then transforms the data into actionable intelligence by applying patented algorithms to rapidly identify distinctive patterns marking the presence of infectious agents, such as MRSA, VRE, *C. difficile*, *K. pneumoniae*, etc. The Nosocomial Infection Marker (NIM) can then be used as an objective, reproducible, clinical case-finding tool to benchmark quality initiatives within the organization. Because the NIM has a high correlation with cost, length of stay (LOS) and chart review findings associated with HAIs, it can then be integrated with hospital cost-accounting data as a viable indicator of the financial impact of preventing HAIs.

MedMined®



Results

From 2006 through 2010, use of the automated-surveillance data-mining service helped RWJ Hamilton protect 722 patient lives, avoid 5,313 days of LOS, achieve over \$3 million in direct cost savings, attain more than \$2 million in bottom line savings and realize a positive return on investment (ROI) over almost four years.

Everyone at RWJ Hamilton—from senior leadership to the hospital board, management and frontline staff—knows the pressing need to prevent and manage HAIs and understands the importance of working together to achieve the organizational goal of reducing infections.

NIM trend

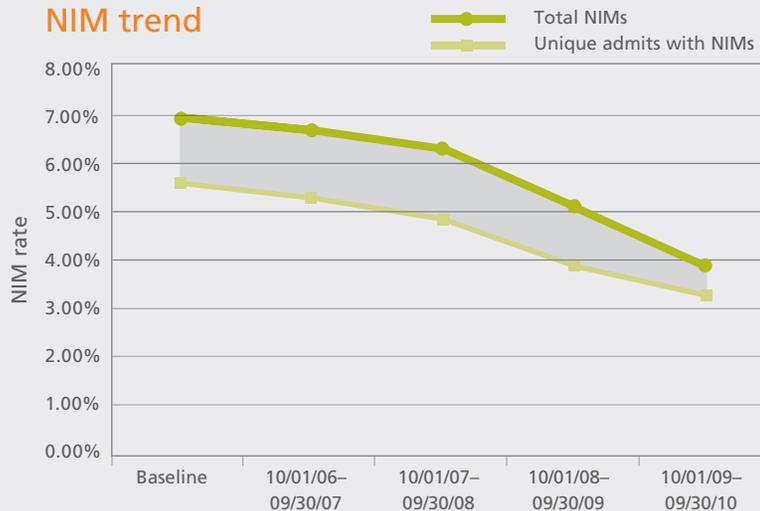


Figure 1:

The graph displays results achieved since automated-surveillance data-mining service implementation in October 2005. The figure shows the incidence rates of both total NIMs (a patient could be associated with more than one NIM) and unique NIMs. Compared to the baseline period, over four years, the rates decreased more than 21%.

“Senior leadership and the board know that quality and service drive results. Using this technology ties the clinical and financial components together, supporting our goal of continually improving patient care.”

Jim Maher
Chief Financial Officer

About RWJ University Hospital, Hamilton

RWJ Hamilton is an acute-care hospital treating more than 200,000 patients annually. Recognized for its highest level of quality, RWJ was the first of two New Jersey hospitals to receive the nation’s highest award, the Malcolm Baldrige Award for Quality.

CareFusion
Birmingham, AL

carefusion.com

* Actual results may vary for other hospitals based upon individual circumstances.

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