



CVAD Nurse: Fighting CLABSI through a Specialized Nursing Team

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INTRODUCTION

Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) is a hospital-wide clinical indicator monitored in the healthcare industry. This infection is common among patients with **Central Venous Access Device (CVAD)**.

The development of CLABSI affects the patient's health condition and poses an additional financial burden on the patient and their families. Prevention of CLABSI is a very challenging task for nurses.

However, with competent CVAD nurses equipped with proper training, innovations and evidence-based interventions being implemented in the hospital, CLABSI can be prevented and could result in positive patient outcome.

AIM

- To decrease the incidences of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) in all patient care areas through adherence to globally accepted, evidence-based guidelines and practices.
- To supervise nurses to be competent in handling patients with CVAD through training, innovation and evidence-based practices and provision of patient and family information in the care and monitoring of CVAD.

METHOD

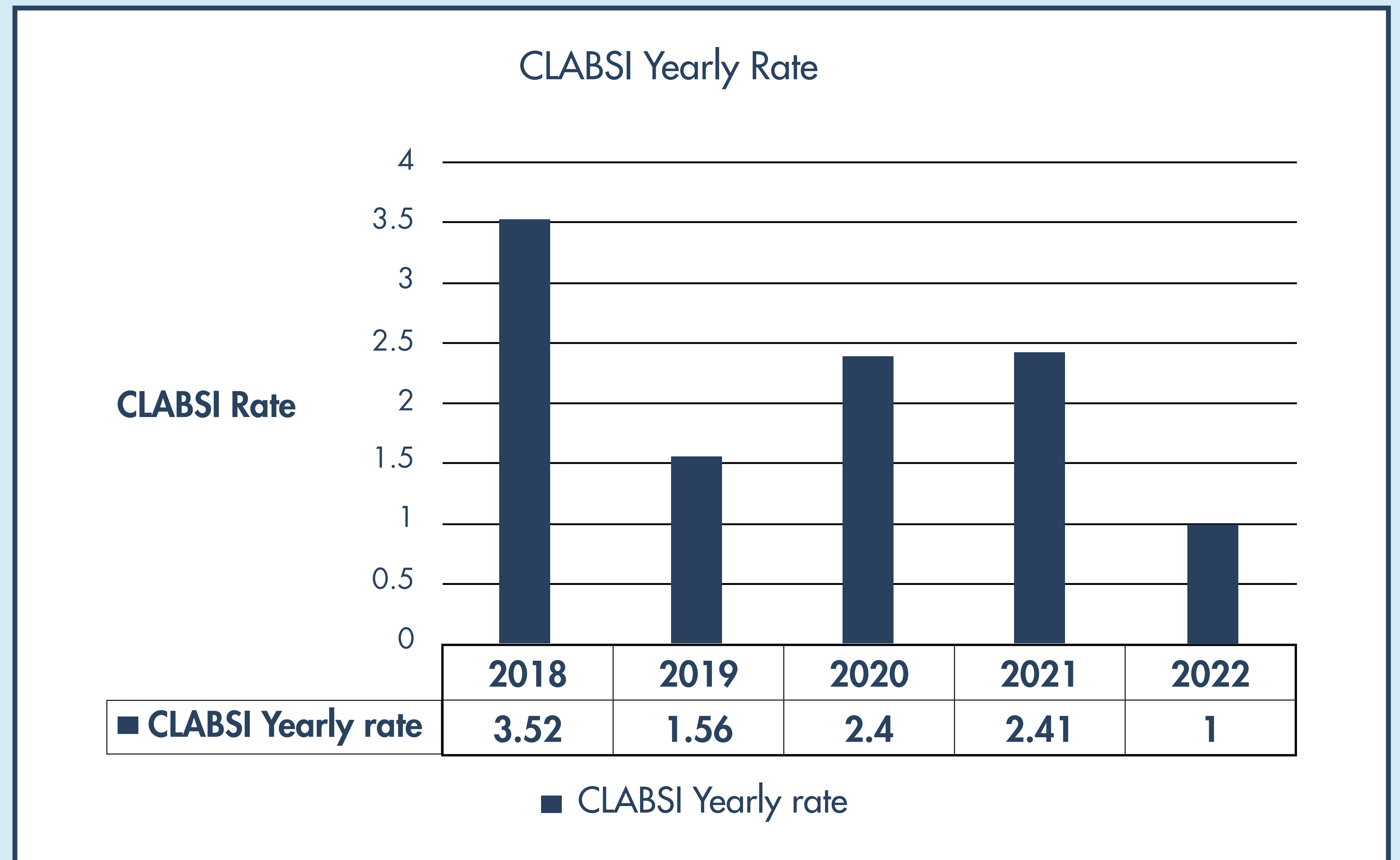
An established process was followed by the CVAD Team during everyday rounding. Everyday there are two CVAD nurses on duty to visit patients with central lines to ensure that guidelines and practices in the care and management of CVAD are implemented.



CVAD nurses follow the same standard of infection control measures implemented to patients with central lines. However, their duties are focused on monitoring, care and management of patients with central lines throughout the hospital, which promotes collaboration with nurses assigned in the ICU/ward, resulting in positive patient outcomes.

CVAD nurses assess patients, flush intravenous lines, change dressings, extract blood samples and access and de-access implanted ports. They coordinate with physicians regarding central line concerns, validate if guidelines are implemented correctly, and do health education with patients and their families.

RESULTS



The results indicate that the interventions implemented have significantly improved at decreasing the CLABSI rate of 3.52% in 2018 to 1.56% in 2019. The succeeding years from 2020 to 2022 showed a marked improvement from 2.40% to 1.00% which clearly strengthened the quality improvement and initiative of the Nursing and Patient Care Services.

Comparing 2021 and 2022 alone, there was a 65% decrease in the incident of CLABSI across all units under NPCSC. Since the implementation of the CVAD Specialized Nursing Team, the Infection Control Committee of Makati Medical Center has expressed their appreciation for the initiative.

CONCLUSIONS

The creation of the CVAD Nurse Team has resulted in a significant decrease in the incidence of CLABSI among admitted patients.

With this initiative, the team has helped in the prevention of CLABSI through continuous monitoring and ensuring that nurses follow the globally accepted guidelines in the care and management of patients with central lines. This resulted in an improved and positive patient outcome.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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