

The investigation of device related Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia

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Staphylococcus aureus is an opportunistic pathogen which colonises the microbiota and causes a wide range of clinical infections. The reporting of the numbers of patients with Staphylococcus bacteraemias is a mandatory requirement from NHS England. Annually the Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull sites in Birmingham, UK record 150 cases per year that are deemed to be hospital acquired. The response of the organisation's Infection Prevention and Control team is to investigate each case in order to ascertain the involvement of any medical devices in the development of these bacteraemias. This audit assessed the total number of cases due to medical devices from April 2016 to March 2019 by reviewing the investigation process as benchmarked against the local standard operating procedure. This audit has used the data collected to identify whether the standard

operating procedure was followed and for trend analysis of device type and learning points that can be made. 38 incidences of Device Related Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia were identified over these three years. This audit has yielded valuable learning points for the prevention of device related Staphylococcus Bacteraemias which have been grouped into the five themes of: audit, education, documentation, investigation and Intervention. These themes identify important aspects of patient care which should be promoted to individuals within the medical workforce in order to improve infection prevention and control within hospitals.