[P-437D] Impact of a vancomycin surveillance program on vancomycin resistant Enterococcus in a Veterans Affairs medical center

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This report describes initiatives and outcomes in a Veterans Affairs medical center to control vancomycin use and decrease vancomycin resistant Enterococcus (VRE). Vancomycin is a high risk and high use antibiotic. Overuse and misuse of vancomycin is a risk factor for infection and colonization with VRE and may contribute to development of vancomycin resistant S. aureus (VRSA) and/or vancomycin resistant S. epidermidis (VRSE). A prospective medication use evaluation (MUE) was performed on 100% of patients on vancomycin during March 1998. The MUE was designed to evaluate appropriate use as determined by CDC Recommendations of the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). Problems identified included inappropriate indications and durations of therapy, resulting in the development of medical center vancomycin usage guidelines as well as the implementation of a vancomycin surveillance program. Clinical pharmacists conduct initial and follow up evaluations daily for all patients placed on vancomycin to verify appropriate indication. Compliance with guidelines prior to implementation of the program was 56% and has been over 96% monthly since pharmacist intervention. The number of cases of VRE decreased by 52%. With the development of vancomycin usage guidelines and implementation of the monitoring program, provider awareness of appropriate use has increased and vancomycin is used more prudently.