

HAS THE ORAL CARE FOR MECHANICALLY VENTILATED PATIENTS IMPROVED ON ITU?

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The ITU Annual Nursing Audit in 2010 highlighted variation in the frequency and quality of oral care for ventilated patients and a non-standardised approach in its delivery. Good oral care has been identified as a factor in preventing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (NICE, 2008) because mechanical ventilation allows microorganisms from the oral cavity to migrate to the lungs. After implementation of an action plan, oral care for ventilated patients was re-audited in 2011.

(Due to reduced compliance in other areas of practice the 2010 audit was given an ICE Score 2)

ACTION PLAN

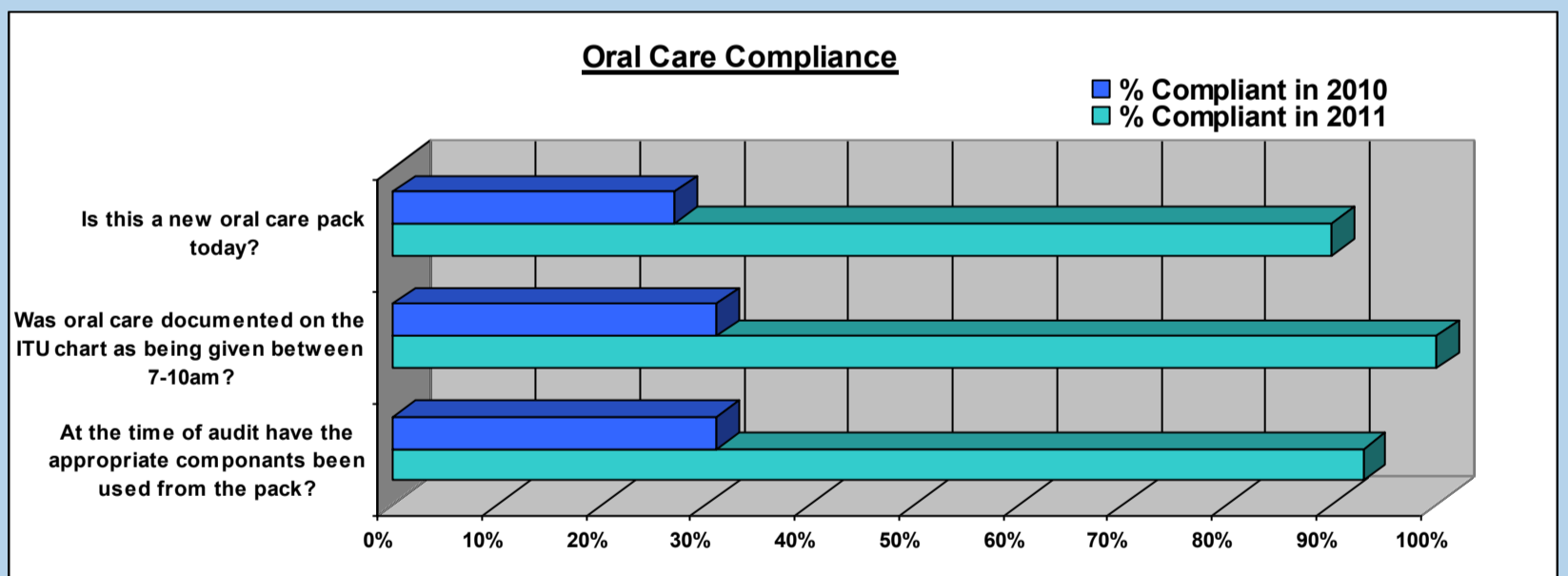
- Introduction of a 24 hour oral care pack that contains both the equipment and solutions required to deliver four hourly oral care
- Comprehensive teaching on use of the new product, and staff competency booklets
- Revision of local guidelines to reflect the change in the oral care product

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the 2011 re-audit was to evaluate whether there was a subsequent improvement in the delivery of oral care for ventilated patients in ITU from 2010 following the completion of the action plan. The objectives were as follows:

- To ascertain if a new oral care pack was being used daily
- To establish if the correct components of the oral care pack were used between 7-10am
- To assess if the oral care episode was correctly documented

Oral Care Compliance



DESIGN

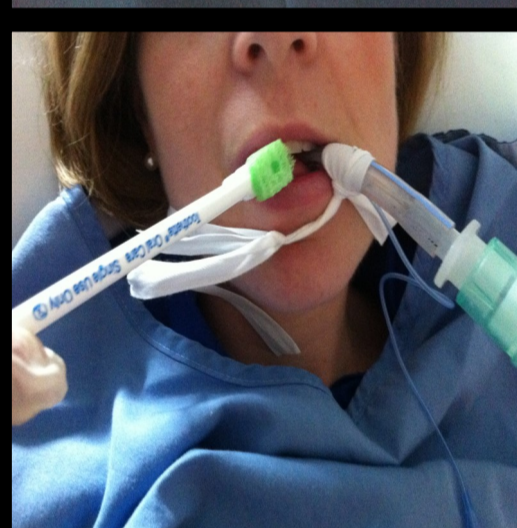
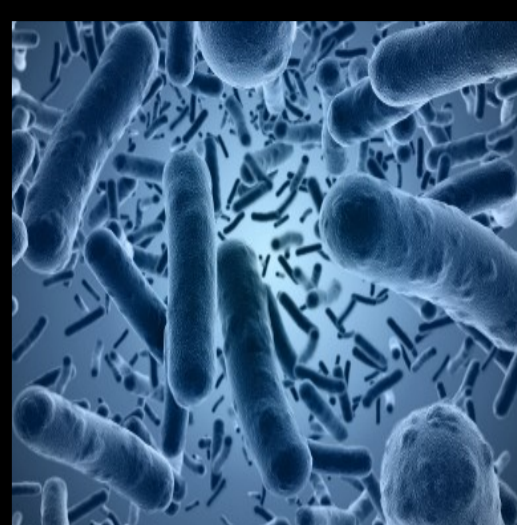
- The 2011 ITU Nursing Re-audit took place in ITU over a 2 month period
- A total of 30 Level 3 mechanically ventilated patients were included
- Patients who had been in ITU for less than 24 hours were excluded
- The audit was carried out after 10am through visual inspection of the oral care equipment and nursing documentation on the ITU chart to establish whether the correct components had been used for the first oral care episode of the day

CONCLUSIONS

The oral care for mechanically ventilated patients has significantly improved on ITU.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION PLAN

- Re-audit oral care practice as part of the Annual Nursing Audit in 2012
- The 2011 was again given an ICE Score of 2 due to other areas of practice showing poor compliance. There is an action plan currently in progress to address this.



TRACHE / ET TUBE SIZE:	0700	0800	0900
Physio P Suction S			
P.A. Care/Turn			
Mouth Care/Eye Care			
SEDATION SCORE			
PAIN SCORE			
CENTRAL VENOUS PRESSURE			
CCMDS LEVELS OF CARE			
INFUSIONS			

