

# Impact of AACN CSI Academy Reaches Beyond the Program

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus reduces CLABSIs 80 percent using strategies from the AACN Clinical Scene Investigator Academy Innovation Database at [www.aacn.org/csi](http://www.aacn.org/csi).

AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy empowers staff nurses as clinician leaders and change agents to measurably improve patient and financial outcomes. Clinical and fiscal results from national expansion of a pilot developed by Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., confirm the program is on target and reaching hospitals beyond the initial 42 cohorts.

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus in Falls Church, Virginia, is one example. Its central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) rates in 2013 were not budging. An analysis showed that CLABSIs tend to occur on the eighth day of a patient's stay, pointing to a maintenance problem with wound dressings.

The hospital engaged in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Partnership for Patients initiative to find best practices across the country and in a lean kaizen improvement process to identify factors contributing to CLABSIs.

The kaizen team used AACN's CSI Academy Innovation Database along with an extensive literature review and best practices benchmarking to see how other facilities handle similar initiatives, especially how they quantify outcomes and tackle resistance to change.

The team collaborated with cardiovascular surgeons to switch from stat locks — which are difficult to keep sterile and can lead to contamination — to a new dressing product for securing central lines. Operating room technicians also learned how to use the new product.

ICU dressing change teams were another critical tactic. The nurse-led teams learned a new two-person dressing competency that had successfully reduced CLABSIs in the pediatric ICUs and allowed RNs to strictly adhere to aseptic technique and reduce wound contamination.



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When a CLABSI occurred, the patient's RN participated in a root cause analysis within 72 hours to determine what happened and what could have been done differently. Once these new products and practices were implemented, CLABSI rates in the adult ICU dropped by 80 percent from the same time period in 2013.

According to "Health Care-Associated Infections: A Meta-Analysis of Costs and Financial Impact on the US Health Care System," a study in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, which estimated costs associated with the most significant and targetable healthcare-associated infections, this reduction represents a cost avoidance of \$962,000.

Sonia Astle, clinical nurse specialist at Inova Fairfax and AACN Certification Corporation Board member, says, "Nurses don't get a chance to see themselves as change agents very often. Because of this project, they're energized. They're fully engaged and proud of their outcomes, supported by how AACN CSI Academy paved the way."

Access the AACN CSI Academy Innovation Database at [www.aacn.org/csi](http://www.aacn.org/csi) to learn more about how nursing peers are inspiring innovation and finding clinical solutions. 