

evaluated using a negative binomial regression model, which treated patient months as an offset variable and included access type, year, and an access-year interaction variable. **Results:** More than 6,000 outpatient hemodialysis facilities reported 134,961 BSIs from 2014 to 2018. Of these BSIs, 102,505 (76%) were categorized as access related. CVCs were present in 63% of BSIs and 70% of ARBSIs. Pooled mean BSI rates decreased 27% from 0.64 to 0.47 per 100 patient months; rates of ARBSIs decreased 27% from 0.49 to 0.36 per 100 patient months. Significant decreases in event rates occurred across vascular access strata (Fig. 1). The reduction in BSI and ARBSI burden was most pronounced among patients with CVCs. BSI rates in patients with CVCs decreased 32% from 2.16 per 100 patient months to 1.46 (annual average decrease, 9.5%), and ARBSI rates in patients with CVCs decreased 32% from 1.83 per 100 patient months to 1.24 (annual average decrease, 9.4%). **Conclusions:** Substantial reductions in BSI and ARBSI rates among hemodialysis outpatients occurred during this 5-year period, and these reductions appear to be most prominent among CVC and AVF patients. Improvements in infection prevention and control practices, including CVC care, have likely contributed to these reductions. Additional efforts to increase the uptake of known prevention practices and to identify new strategies for prevention might contribute to continued decreases in infections among this highly vulnerable population.

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Poster Presentation

Provision of Hepatitis A Vaccine by Paramedics During Noncritical Patient Interactions: Lessons Learned

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Background: Hepatitis A cases have been regularly increasing in Florida since 2016, after remaining relatively stable for several years. Between January 1, 2019, and October 19, 2019, 2,847 cases of hepatitis were reported to the Florida Department of Health, including 2,209 hospitalizations and 41 deaths due to infection with hepatitis A1. At least 93% of these cases was acquired within the state of Florida.¹ During this outbreak, Pasco County clearly emerged as a focal point for new cases. As of week 42 of 2019, Pasco County was the second-highest county for new cases (n = 484) and the leading county for deaths due to hepatitis A infection (n = 8). Risk factors identified from hepatitis A cases reported between January 1, 2019, and October 19, 2019, included any drug use (57%), injection drug use (37%), noninjection drug use (35%), homelessness (22%), and being a man who had sexual intercourse with other men (MSM, 4%).¹ Moreover, 33% of newly reported cases were interviewed and denied risk factors; 1 (20%) had recently been incarcerated or was currently incarcerated.¹ Individuals with these risk factors are often individuals who also require emergency medical services (EMS). On August 1, 2019, a public health emergency (PHE) was issued for the entire state of Florida. The existence of a PHE allows for paramedics to administer vaccine (with the approval of the fire rescue medical director). Pasco County Fire Rescue routinely operates 28 advanced life support (ALS) ambulances with either a crew of 2 paramedics or a paramedic/EMT pair. On October 7, 2019, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County, the Pasco County Fire Rescue Medical Director, and the

BCC for ALS crews to provide hepatitis A vaccination to noncritical (ie, basic life support) patients during routine contact. This effort appears to be the first within the of Florida. Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR) began stocking hepatitis A vaccine on January 1, 2020 and ceased participation in the program on March 1, 2020. During the window of participation, PCFR responded to approximately 6,570 calls in which the patient would have been non-critical and eligible for hepatitis A vaccination. Twelve hepatitis A vaccinations (0.18%) were administered. Crews verbalized concerns about adding vaccination to their job description, feelings of being overwhelmed with existing emergency medical services (EMS) responsibilities, apathy regarding the potential benefit of provision of vaccine, and perception that successful participation in a vaccine campaign would lead to additional community paramedicine responsibilities. The vaccine program was terminated early due to the significant demands on EMS as SARS-CoV2 impacted Pasco County. This trial highlights the need for crew investments and buy-in for future partial or full community paramedicine initiatives.

1. Florida Department of Health, Hepatitis A Surveillance State Report, Week 42.

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Quality Improvement Measures to Reduce Central-Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs) in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

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Background: Central-line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) are a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality for neonates; they also increased healthcare costs and duration of hospitalization. This population is susceptible to infections because of their undeveloped immune systems, and they require intravenous access until they can tolerate enteral feedings, which for extremely premature infants can take several weeks (if not months) to achieve. Our hospital is a regional-referral teaching hospital with 772 licensed beds. The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is a

Figure 1.

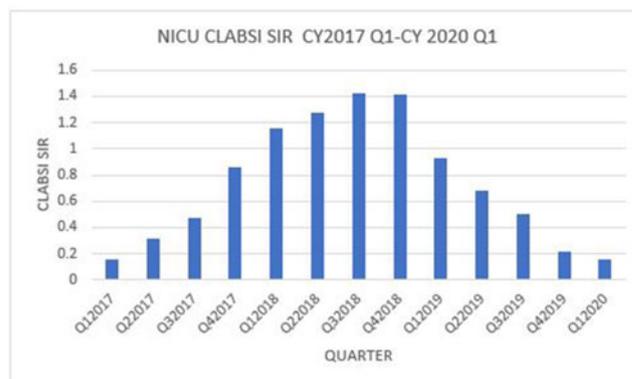


Fig. 1.