

## Creating Healthy Work Environments VIRTUAL 2021

### All Hands on Deck: Conquering COVID

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#### **Purpose:**

To work through a pandemic brings many challenges, as well as opportunities for spearheading innovative ideas. In the midst of treating the rampantly spreading coronavirus disease (COVID) infections, many disciplines were brought together to collaboratively treat these patients. Historically, nurses have successfully and promptly responded and adapted to new challenges, such as managing rising patient acuity, safely administering trial drugs, and anticipating and preventing adverse events. The hospital infection control team was heavily relied upon for guidance on proper infection control. A number of methods to promote patient safety were pioneered on units caring for coronavirus positive patients.

#### **Methods:**

Some of the technological implementations include patient monitoring camera systems installed in the ceiling of the patient rooms to monitor patients visually at a central monitoring station, tablets set up to display vital signs outside of the closed rooms, and continuous pulse oximetry transmitted via Bluetooth to smart phones and monitored by a trained technician on an electronic dashboard. Implementing these as well as other practice changes helped to optimize patient outcomes and decrease the exposure for healthcare staff in COVID positive patient rooms. Remote telemetry monitoring and outpatient cardiac monitoring devices were utilized to watch for QT prolongation potentially related to medication side effects.

#### **Results:**

A major part of successful implementation of these innovative strategies was the partnership with different disciplines. An “all hands on deck” approach was initiated to turn a 43-bed telemetry unit into a fully functioning intensive care unit. The engineering team created windows in the doors of the room to allow the staff to be able to observe their patients while having the doors closed. The materials department partnered with the management team to ensure staff had the proper equipment to care for acutely ill COVID patients.

#### **Conclusion:**

The teamwork of multiple departments during a very uncertain time helped to successfully maintain staff and patient safety.

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#### **Title:**

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**Keywords:**

COVID, innovation and interprofessional

**Abstract Summary:**

A look back at the pandemic that hit a large quaternary hospital that tested people's faith and led them to prepare for battle against the enemy they knew nothing about.

**Late Breaking Reason:**

The unit that was heavily involved in managing COVID patients was still in the middle of caring for these patients. All the challenges that faced the staff and the way that they were able to overcome it is amazing.

**References:**

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