

# IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ORAL CARE KIT AS A VENTILATOR ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA PREVENTION STRATEGY

Claire Wilkinson RN, BScN, MN; Kimberly Macias RN, BScN, MN; Ronak Gandhi RN, BScN, MN; Leo Zhu RN, BScN, MN; Suzi Laj RN, BN, MHS

## DESCRIPTION

In the span of six months, there were three cases of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) identified in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Humber River Health (HRH). This led to a review of the ICU's VAP prevention bundle to identify potential gaps and opportunities for improvement. The findings from the review highlighted the need for changes to the current oral care practices for ventilated patients. To promote oral care compliance and align with best-practice guidelines a new oral care kit was introduced into the ICU.

## OBJECTIVE

To prevent VAP by introducing a multi-component oral care kit for ventilated ICU patients.

## ACTIONS TAKEN

The following steps were completed to update oral care practices:

1. A literature review was completed to determine current best practice guidelines for oral care
2. A review of available products was completed and the product that best suited the unit was identified
3. Stakeholders including pharmacy, procurement, finance, frontline staff and ICU Family Advisor were engaged as part of product implementation
4. Education was provided to the frontline Registered Nurses about the selected product
5. A six-month trial period was initiated in June 2023 which includes gathering utilization data and staff feedback

## LESSONS LEARNED

A systematic approach and ongoing stakeholder engagement is imperative for the successful implementation of a quality improvement initiative.



Figure 1.  
Oral Care Kit used at HRH ICU

Month	Compliance
July	97%
August	96%
September	97%

Table 1.  
Compliance Rates with oral care kit usage at HRH ICU

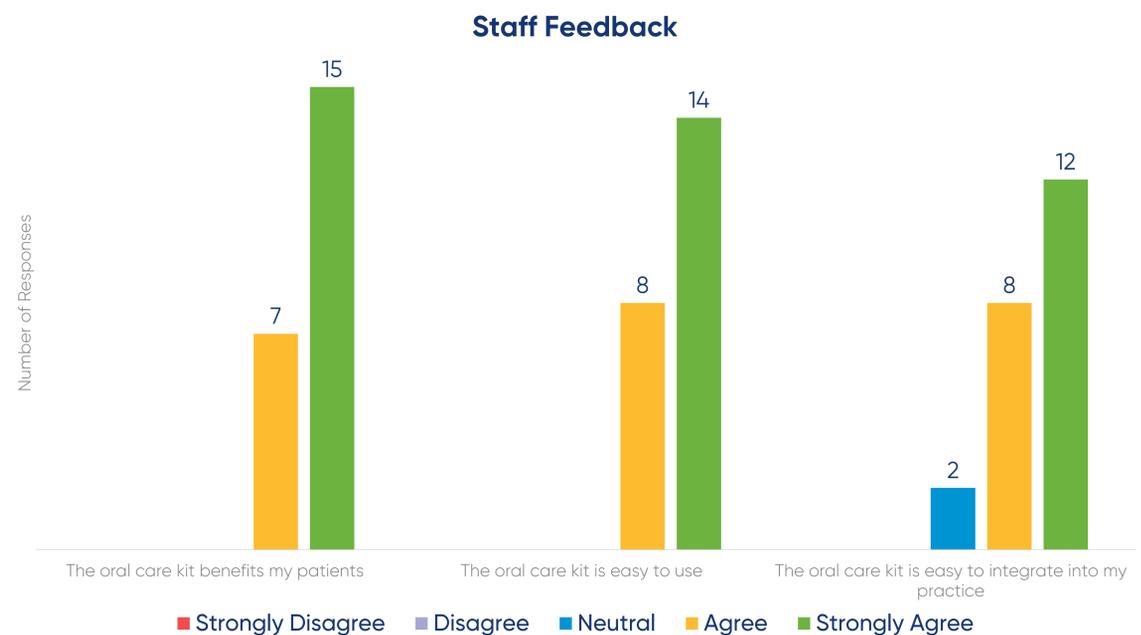


Figure 2.  
Feedback form results

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A six month product trial started in June 2023. Four months in, there have been no confirmed case of VAP. This is in part due to strong compliance with the oral care kits and staff engagement. Staff feedback has been positive with 100% of staff agreeing that the oral care kit benefits their patients and it is easy to use. The positive staff satisfaction is also reflected in the oral kit utilization rate which has been monitored throughout the trial. Evaluation of the product and stakeholder engagement is ongoing.