



So many programs

My thoughts this week are practical. It's been a busy week for us and that makes me aware of how busy every week is for you too.

Things have changed in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement over the years.

When I first started in this field – hospital quality departments were very small, measurement was not a big production, and topics for focus were selected by hospitals themselves and limited in number.

In fact, most quality departments, and probably most of infection control departments had dark, tiny office space in the basement shared with the rodents and roaches. Staff was easily expendable when budgets fell short. The board was not tracking core measures. Superbugs were not on the front page.

Now we have tons of required measures and data abstraction, many driven by national mandates. Toolkits, best practices, guidelines, projects and groups eager to “help” hospitals, long term care facilities and dialysis centers are multiplying faster than the aforementioned roaches!!!



I worry about the unintended consequences of this overload and about any unintentional contribution we might be making!

I worry about this because I know that everyday there is at least one person being cared for in our community who has acquired MRSA because of a lapse in our care. I wonder what will be lost because of that infection. Who will lose a friend, a parent, a child, a sister or brother? How many weddings, births, quiet conversations, hearty laughs or gently hugs will never be enjoyed?

I don't think there are any easy answers.

I do believe deep in my heart that if you give Positive Deviance a real strong try, it will in the long run lessen the load crushing our Infection Preventionists, Quality Professionals and managers in general!



We have been thinking about what we can do –practically to "help". As a first step – perhaps matrix of all the MRSA related programs in our region?

The ones we know about are:

The MPSC MRSA Prevention Network
The CMS QIO national MRSA program
Maryland's Mandatory HAI Public Reporting Program
IHI 5 Million Lives Campaign

Also on the horizon are;

Social Network Mapping Pilot program
Outpatient Hemodialysis Outreach

IF THERE ARE OTHERS – NOT ON THIS LIST – PLEASE LET US KNOW – AND WE WILL ADD THE DETAILS TO THE MATRIX – our goal is to get this matrix out on the listserv next week.