Utilization of Catheter Calendars for CAUTI Reduction

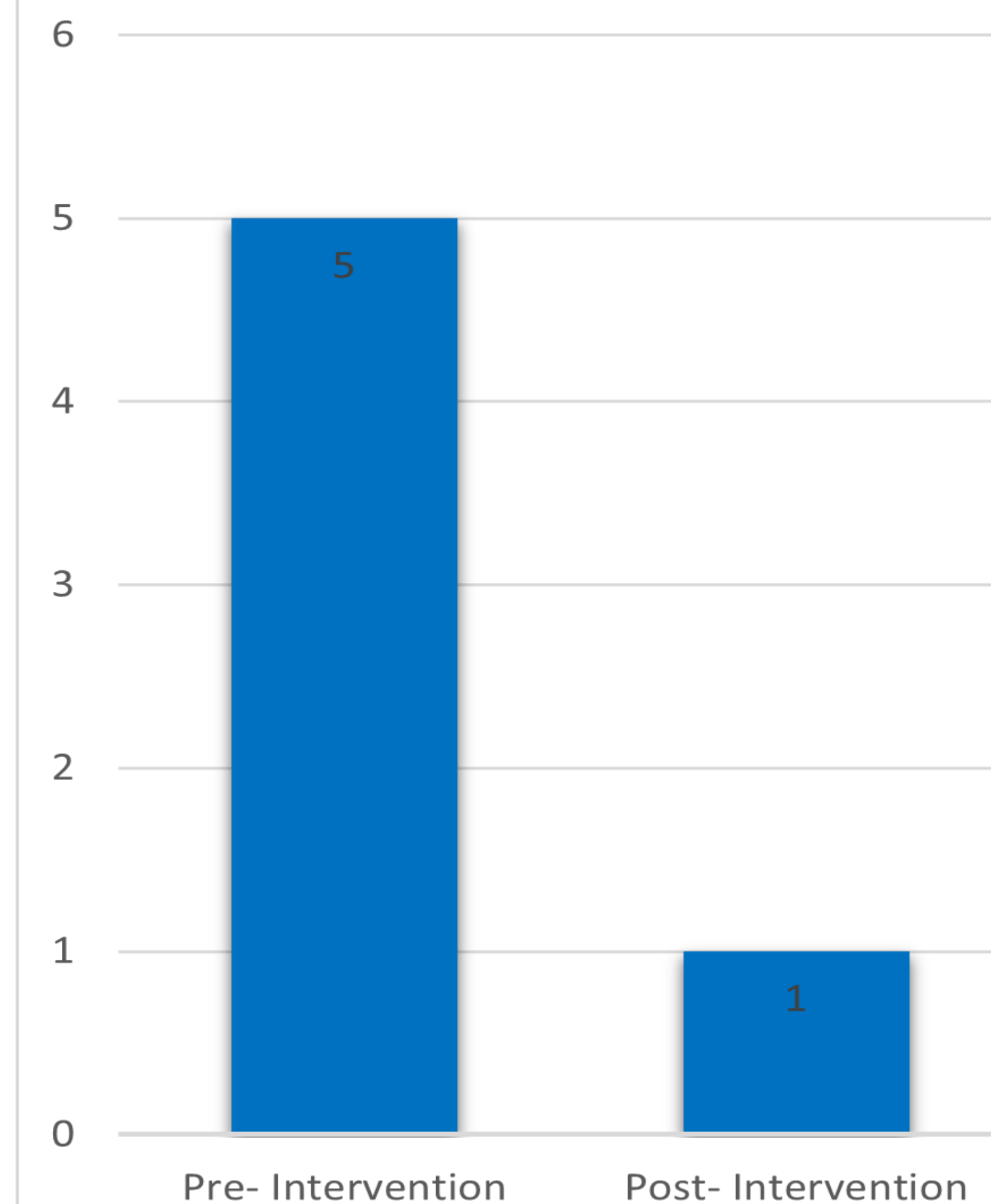Katie Whitehead, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, PHN

Background

- Hospital acquired infections are a nursing sensitive quality indicator used by the public, governmental agencies and regulatory bodies to determine the caliber of care offered by nursing staff in acute care hospitals.
- Foley Catheter care is linked to quality, safety, and patient outcomes.
- CAUTI rates increased in 2022 to five within the first two quarters compared to four total from 2020 to 2021
- When looking into CAUTIs, bedside nurses began to ask – How do we know if the perineal care was completed?

Purpose

To reduce the incidence of CAUTIs in patients on acute medical-surgical and telemetry (MST) units.

Methods

- 356-bed community hospital on MST units.
- Started August 2022
- Proper foley catheter care education and skills validation completed in September 2022 to all MST RNs and NAs.
- Foley catheter shift calendar created and utilized.
    - Caregivers place a sticker from the meatal and perineal wipe packaging (orange sticker) after cleansing the patient to ensure other team members know this has taken place for the shift

Results

CAUTI incidents decreased from 5 in the first 2 quarters to 1 in the 12 months since implementation.

CAUTI Rates

Bar chart showing CAUTI Rates: Pre-Intervention = 5, Post-Intervention = 1.

Foley Care - Green Wipes calendar
Week of: _____
Date Inserted: _____
Date Removed: _____
*DO NOT send Urine Cultures from Lines in Place for more than 7 Days - Reassess with the physician first! Longer dwell time = More Biofilm in tubing!!

Discussion

Utilizing the foley catheter care calendar increased awareness and led to:

- Multifaceted intervention increased compliance of foley catheter care and improved overall caregiver engagement in quality
- Provided clear communication and clarity regarding responsibility of task between caregivers
- Education and validation of correct product usage and techniques for catheter maintenance
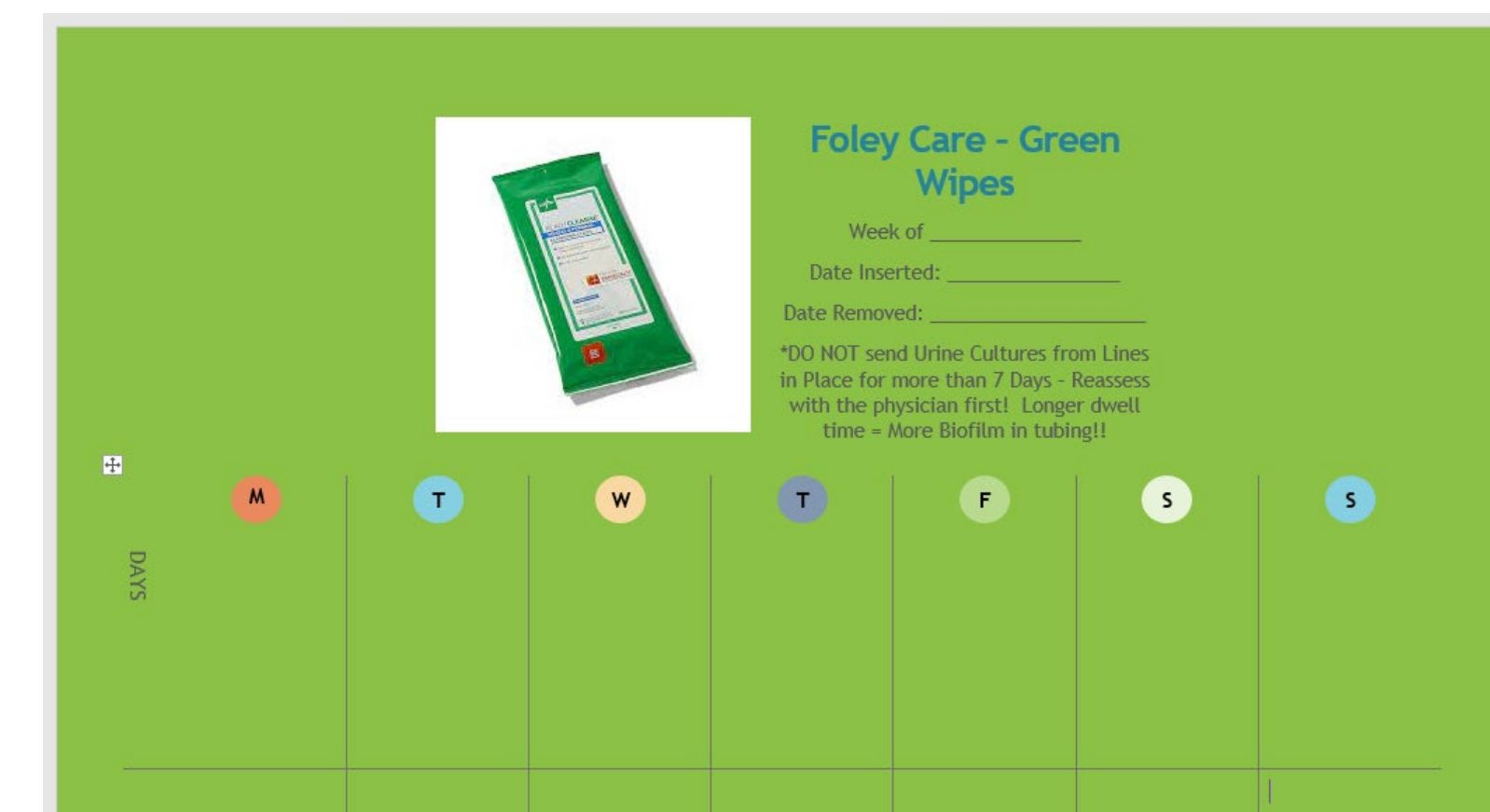
Implications for Practice

Utilization of a calendar for catheter maintenance coupled with validation of proper maintenance technique showed decreased incidents of CAUTIs in MST patients.

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