

### 3) Reducing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia in Trached and Ventilated Children

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#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project's goal was to reduce the incidence of ventilator associated pneumonia in trached and ventilated children. The project team was comprised of members of the medical staff, infection control, registered nurses, nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, and quality. The work of the team was focused on taking the evidence based practice for reducing VAP i.e. the ventilator bundle, which is primarily designed for intubated and ventilated intensive care patients, and modifying it for the special population of trached and ventilated children in a post-acute setting. By identifying and adopting a modified bundle, we were able to reduce the rate of VAP from a baseline of 4.35 per 1000 ventilator days to 0 over 18 months.

#### OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

- Reduced VAP rate in trached and ventilated children

#### LESSONS LEARNED

- Providing regular mouth care in children with an oral aversion can be challenging; Swabs may be more effective than tooth brushes in these situations.
- Maintaining head of bed elevation in children may be enhanced by using supportive bolsters.
- Close monitoring of pressure support and increasing as the patient may tolerate may reduce risk for VAP.