

BACKGROUND

Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) is defined as a type of healthcare-associated infection (HAI) that develops in the lungs of a person who is intubated on a ventilator. VAP is a significant risk to patients and contributes to increase morbidity and mortality. It is imperative to perform good oral hygiene, deep suctioning, maintaining the head of the bed elevated 30 degrees (if not contraindicated), and good hand hygiene to prevent the occurrence of a VAP. The NSCU/SICU staff increased the education of prevention in huddles, charge nurse rounding to encourage and evaluate compliance of performing oral care every 2 hours, and reviewed data on VAP incidences in NSCU/SICU.



PURPOSE

Reduce or eliminate incidence of VAP to patients in the intensive care unit.

METHODS

NSCU/SICU Unit Based Council reviewed the unit specific data on VAPS with a goal to decrease the number of VAP infections. Staff was educated on data and prevention education during morning Huddles, as well as the charge nurse rounding to encourage and evaluate the compliance of oral hygiene in the intubated patients. This intervention involved rigorous oral care performed every 2 hours using a standardized protocol by Registered Nurse which include toothbrush every shift, a one time deep oral suction by Respiratory Therapist per shift and/or as needed. Data on ventilator days, VAP incidence and compliance with oral care protocol were collected.



BEFORE

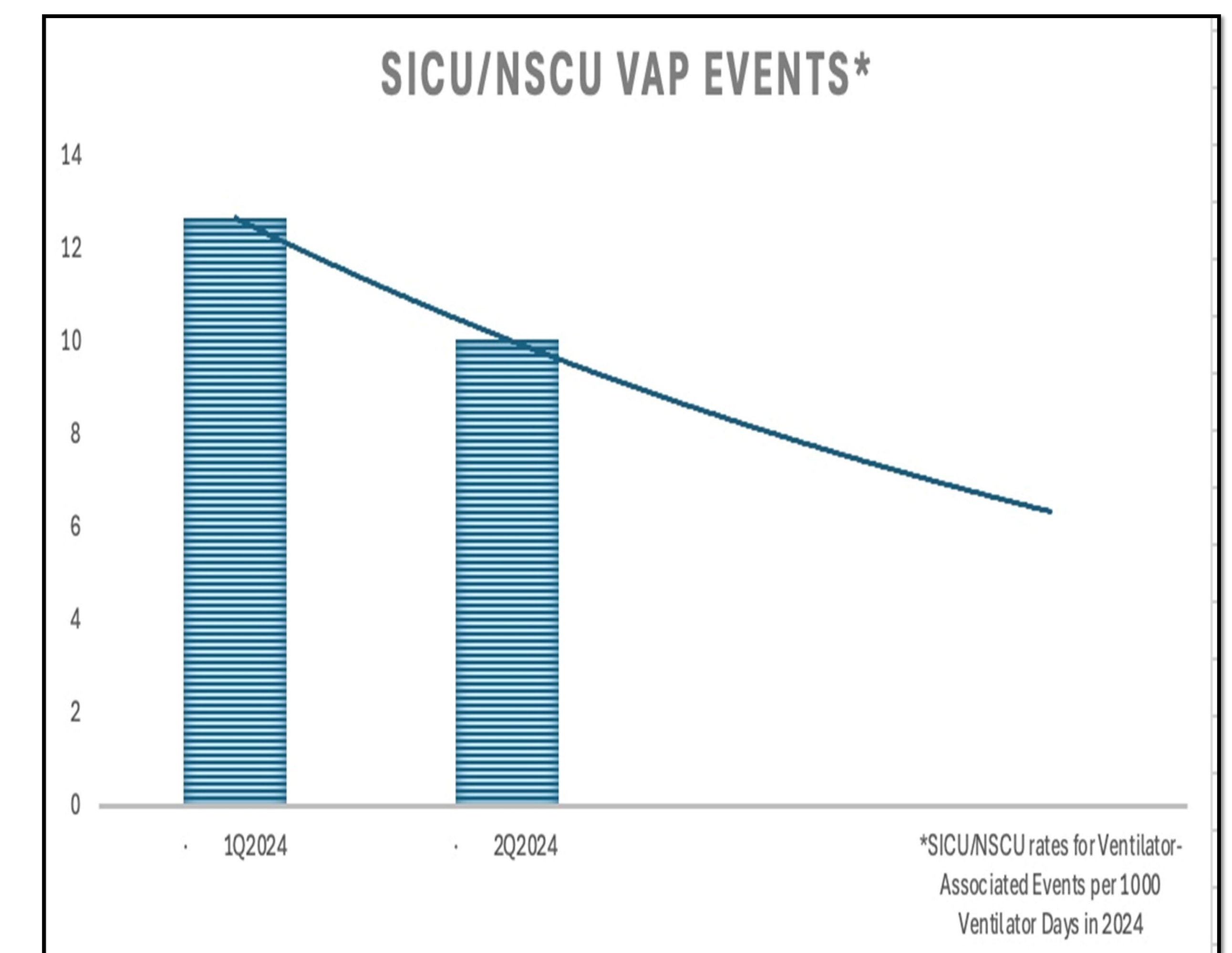


AFTER

Oral care performed every 2 hours over a 6 hour period.

RESULTS

Implementation of the 2 hour oral care protocol resulted in a significant reduction in VAP incidence. Compliance with the oral care protocol increased.



CONCLUSIONS

Enhanced oral care every 2 hours significantly reduced the incidence of VAP in the SICU and NSCU. Continuous adherence to the protocol is essential for maintaining low VAP rates and improving patient outcomes.

REFERENCES

Institute for Healthcare Improvement. (2022). *Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia Prevention Bundle* Retrieved from [https://www.ihc.org/resources/pages/tools/.VAPPventionBundle.aspx](https://www.ihc.org/resources/pages/Tools/VAPPventionBundle.aspx)

