Pseudo Outbreak of Gastrointestinal Illness in an NICU
June 10 2013

• It all began with a phone call
• 2 babies in NICU with bloody stool
  In same room
• Peds ID -- called advised call IPAC
What to do ????

• Babies placed on contact precautions
• Stool samples requested
• Detailed Hx taken
June 13 2013

• Baby A (12 days old) positive for Norovirus
• Baby B stool Neg – however Dx with Necrotizing Enterocolitis
• Never had Norovirus in NICU before!
• Is it time to panic yet?
June 14 2013

- Baby B stool positive for Rotavirus & Norovirus! (Remember he was Neg!)
- Never Rotavirus in NICU before
- Family not ill? Were staff ill
- HAI – what’s going on??
Plan A

- Outbreak not declared however:
- Enhanced cleaning
- Babies nursed with contact precautions
- Restricted movement of pts–
- Investigation
- Stools to be sent on any Symptomatic baby
June 15 2014

• Time for Plan B
• Yes it’s an OUTBREAK!
• Visiting restricted to parents (may not visit if GI illness)
• All babies worked with gloves and gowns
• Only one room open for admissions
June 15 2014
just so you know it’s Saturday!

• ICP visited unit spoke to all available parents –
• High level of concern but fears allayed
• ICP spoke with all nurses and reviewed Pt pop
• IPAC message prepared for staff (hard copy) as guidance for answering parents questions
• Neonatologist – could this be faulty testing?
And on it goes

- June 19th now have had 1 baby with Rotavirus, 3 with Norovirus
- continuing multidisciplinary meeting
- Review of formula preparation and EBM
- Environmental health walk through
- Environmental cleaning remains enhanced
More Cases!

• In the end total of 6 babies with positive Norovirus, 1 with Rotavirus
• Norovirus Symptomatic babies were not ill.
• What is normal baby poop?
Outcome

• Because of literature review 3 samples sent to national lab for PCR - Neg results received July 3
• PHL uses ELISA, not accurate in preterm/newborn pop
• ?? Why
Articles

• Norovirus Pseudo-outbreak in NICU
• J Pediatric Gastroenterol Nutr, Vol26 April 2008

• The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal
• Vol. 29, number 7, July 2010