

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

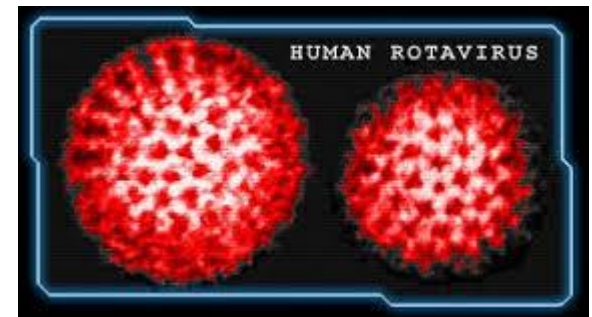
June 13 2013

- 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 19 th 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 July3
- PHL uses ELISA, not accurate in preterm/newborn pop
- ?? Why

Articles

- Norovirus Pseudo-outbreak in NICU
- J Pediatric Gastroenterol Nutr, Vol 26 April 2008

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