



MAGNET QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK July 22, 2013

What is an Innovation?

In an article published in *Milbank Quarterly*, Trisha Greenhalgh et al., (2004) define innovation in service delivery and organizations as a novel set of behaviors, routines, and ways of working that are directed at improving health outcomes, administrative efficiency, cost effectiveness, or users experience and that are implemented by planned and coordinated actions.

Some examples of Innovation?

Wound Imaging App - Nurses on the burn unit worked with biomedical engineers and researchers to adapt use of an innovative application (app) that allows for burn photos into the electronic medical record (EMR). Prior to implementation of this application nurses and physicians looked at wound pictures on a small screen on a small handheld digital camera. Now with the iPhone capability nurses and physicians view wounds on a screen that allows easy and intuitive zooming capability.

Ultrasound-Assisted peripheral IV (PIV) Access in the Intensive Care Unit - Ultrasonography (US) has been used to assist physicians with central venous catheter (CVC) access for some time, and more recently to aid nurses and physicians in PIV cannulation for patients with difficult access. Assisted PIV placement can prevent CVC placement, and can facilitate CVC removal suggesting the potential to improve quality of care around venous access.

Examples of innovations waiting to be implemented:

- The Biometric Monitoring System (BAM) , a wireless fall prevention device that has potential for decreasing fall rates. The BAM device is a reusable sealed bed sensor that is placed below the mattress and alerts the nurse of attempted bed exits through an iPhone.
- Special colored blankets for falls risk patients – falls risk patients will be easily identified by all employees of the hospital. Whether a patient is in bed, sitting in a wheelchair or being transported on a gurney, the small blanket will help alert employees that the patient needs assistance when ambulating. A color is currently being determined by the falls committee and then will be implemented on a pilot unit.

Do you have examples of any innovations on your unit/dept/clinic?