Problem Statement
A recent increase in peripheral intravenous (PIV) infections with serious patient complications required immediate action.

Background
- IV insertion is the most common procedure among hospitalized patients.
- Infections associated with IV insertion increase length of stay for patients.
- Complications associated with IV infections are costly and negatively influence patient satisfaction.
- BWFH needed to address the unexpected increase in PIV infections.

Continuous Quality Improvement Project (CQIP)
- A multidisciplinary team was formed to identify and address factors leading to PIV infections.
- A review of the literature was completed to determine best practices.
- The team evaluated current PIV practices to identify variations in practice.
- A long term plan was developed to address learning needs for clinicians.

Follow Up Education
- Comprehensive educational plan titled 'Back to Basics' was developed.
- Logo for campaign designed by the BWFH Marketing Department.
- Information in the monthly flyer reflects national practice standards.
- Dissemination
  - Posted in every nursing unit on the Nursing Practice Board.
  - Published in the monthly nursing newsletter.
  - IV Nurses provide individual follow up with clinical nurses as needed.

Monthly Topics
May
“Getting off to a good start” Preventing infection
June
“SOS” – Save Our Sites Site Selection
July
“Look, Listen, Feel” IV Site Assessment
August
“Don’t get caught out of line” Changing administration sets and add-on devices

Key Outcomes
- A consistent, evidenced-based, and uniformly excellent approach to IV insertion following the ‘Back To Basics’ campaign has decreased PIV infections at BWFH for greater than five months.
- Assembling multidisciplinary teams for the purpose of a CQIP results in improved patient care outcomes.

Implications for Nursing Practice
- Preventing hospital acquired infections, regardless of the source, is critical to improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare cost.
- The approach followed in this project is an outstanding example of a process that could be applied to other patient care problems.