

How Do We Generate the Right Evidence to Support Decision-Makers?

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**NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS
COLLABORATORY**

Rethinking Clinical Trials®

Case Example:

Active Bathing to Eliminate (ABATE) Infection Trial

- **Trial Question:** Can CHG bathing for all patients + nasal decolonization for methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) carriers prevent MRSA and/or bloodstream infections (BSIs) in *non-ICUs* compared to routine care?
- **Context:** MRSA and BSI matter for hospital metrics. Universal decolonization with CHG and mupirocin markedly decreased MRSA (37%) and BSI (44%) *in ICUs* in a prior trial. Widely adopted as standard-of-care in ICUs. Some hospitals began this regimen *in non-ICU patients with devices* ahead of any evidence.
- **Design:** Cluster RCT in 53 hospitals (194 non-ICUs) affiliated with HCA Healthcare
- **Results:** No effect in the overall non-ICU population, but *post-hoc analysis* in patients with devices showed large reductions in all-cause bloodstream infections (32%) and MRSA and VRE clinical cultures (37%)

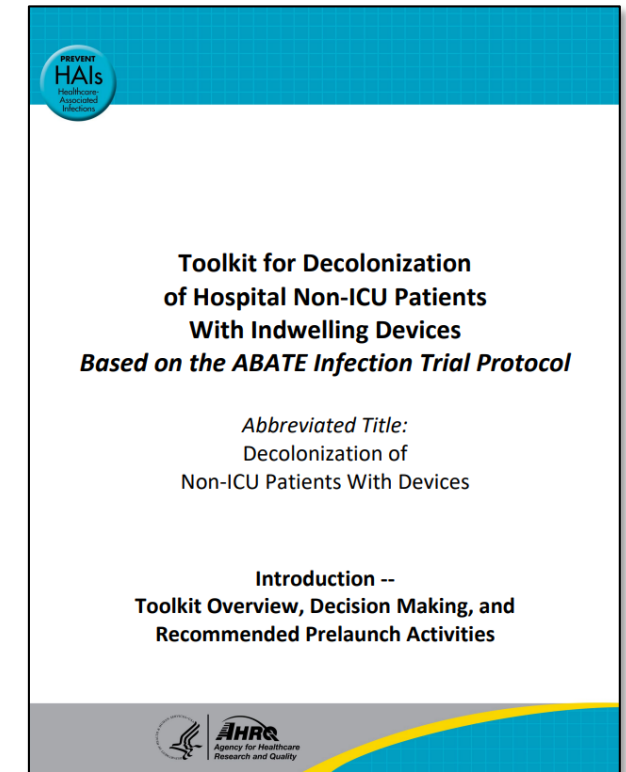
Health System and National Responses to ABATE Trial

- **Rapid HCA Healthcare Response**

- Immediate post-trial, before results, protocol discontinued
- Trial hospitals could opt to continue by local decision-making
- After results known → implemented targeted protocol in non-ICU patients with a medical device in all hospitals

- **National Response from Field**

- Validated sentiment that decolonization works in patients with devices to decrease a key hospital metric
- AHRQ funded toolkit for decolonization of patients with medical devices supported by investigative team
- Toolkit highlighted in AHRQ-funded healthcare MRSA reduction programs



Elements of Health System Implementation Decisions

- **Context:** Does it address a health system strategic priority? Pay-for-performance metrics, regulatory targets, current problem
- **Credibility:** Are results believable, anticipated?
- **Relevance:** direct experience, similar situation or population to HCA health system
- **Reputational Value:** distinction in the marketplace
- **Pragmatic Adoption:** low complexity, in line with workflow, local champions exist
- **Cost and ROI:** \$\$ and speed of expected response
- **Measurable Impact:** metrics allow ongoing decision-making
- **Competing Activities:** bandwidth of required teams, IT needs, timing options