



# Partnering to Reduce Blood Stream Infections in Inpatient Dialysis Patients

## Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI) Overview

Central venous catheters (CVCs) are lifesaving devices—and are linked to approximately 250,000 central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI) cases annually in hospitals across the United States.<sup>1</sup> Dialysis catheters are a common cause of CLABSI. Fortunately, CLABSI is preventable through a proactive approach that involves identifying and addressing the unique risk factors for CLABSI in each hospital setting.

## Yale New Haven Hospital's CLABSI Challenge

With a commitment to patient safety and zero events of harm, Yale New Haven Hospital

### CLABSI Stats<sup>1</sup>

- CLABSI is the most common cause of health care-associated blood stream infection
- Approximately 250K CLABSIs occur annually in U.S. hospitals
- Blood stream infections cause up to 62K deaths of patients in hospitals annually
- Up to 25% of patients with CLABSI die
- A single CLABSI incident can cost a hospital as much as \$56K

## The Cause of CLABSI

DaVita's clinical and administrative teams, in partnership with the Yale New Haven Hospital team, collected source data and analyzed the results to identify the top risk factors contributing to dialysis-related CLABSI. Seven factors were identified. Primary opportunities for improvement were related to CVC maintenance, including dressing changes, competency staff training and reinforced best practices.

## Plan of Action

DaVita's administrator and the hospital team designed and implemented a plan of action with the following core components:

- **Educate on:** DaVita partnered with Yale New Haven Hospital to provide ongoing education and training for the hospital's clinical team. Leaders from both organizations worked to ensure every team member was knowledgeable and competent in dialysis catheter best practices.
- **Communicate on:** The acute clinical coordinator served as a communications liaison between the DaVita administrator and the acute nurses to help ensure CLABSI risks and incidences were reported and addressed immediately. The acute nurses reported any of the seven risk factors as soon as they were identified.

Within this framework, DaVita tracked the dialysis-related CLABSI status and, in partnership with Yale New Haven Hospital, drove significant improvement.

For more information on how DaVita can partner with you to address CLABSI or other dialysis-related challenges, contact [hospitals@davita.com](mailto:hospitals@davita.com).

