


Hand Hygiene – What About Our Patients
Emma Burnett, University of Dundee
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Hand Hygiene ...
What About Our Patients?

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Research aims
- Background
- Research design
- Study sample
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Findings
- Impact on clinical practice and further work

Background

- Patient hand hygiene within clinical setting
- Limited focus towards patient hand hygiene
- Limited research surrounding patient hand hygiene
- Research grant from NHS Tayside

Principle Investigator:
Emma Burnett

Co-Applicants:
Dr Karen Lee (Senior Lecturer, Dundee University)
Mrs Patricia Kydd (ICN, NHS Tayside)

Research Aims

- Explore perceptions of nurses and patients towards patient hand hygiene
- Identify and address current clinical practice
- Identification of patient's needs and gaps in clinical practice

Research Design

- **Descriptive mixed methodological study**
 - Acute medical , surgical and orthopaedic wards
- **Observational sessions**
 - Staff and patient practice
- **Staff survey questionnaires**
 - Perceptions, attitudes and self reported behaviour
- **Patient interviews**
 - Perceptions, attitudes and clinical practice

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Study Sample

- Purposive sampling
- Observations
 - Clinical practice within bay areas
- Staff survey questionnaires
 - Nursing staff on duty in each of the six wards, caring for patients in bay areas
- Patient interviews
 - Patients situated in bay areas (dependency scores of 2 – 5)

Data Collection

- Observational sessions
 - In bay areas during a morning shift (07:30am – 11:00am) of each ward
- Staff questionnaires
 - 10 questions (various response format)
- Patient interviews
 - 10 interview semi- structured questions

Results

- 33 nursing staff completed questionnaire
- 6 observational sessions undertaken
- 22 patients interviewed
- Very poor clinical practice observed in relation to patient hand hygiene
- Conflicting information provided from nursing staff
- Patient's viewed their own hand hygiene as important but were not provided with the opportunities to carry it out.

Results (Cont.)

- Hand wipes on meal trolleys, issued to individual patients, and at every patient bed
- More encouragement and assistance from staff
- More accessible facilities
- Provide patients with individual hand gels
- Display of posters and notices/distribution of leaflets to patient on admission
- Staff and patient education on the importance of hand hygiene

Impact on Clinical Practice

- Dissemination of findings to infection prevention and control team, clinical staff, senior management and national clinical governance conference
- Patient hand hygiene made more explicit within infection prevention and control education in both clinical practice and the university undergraduate and post graduate curriculum

Patient Hand Wipe Poster

USE OF PATIENT HAND WIPES

NHS Tayside

Hand hygiene is the single most important measure to help prevent and reduce the spread of healthcare associated infections. All patients should be encouraged and provided with the facilities and assistance to clean their hands, especially after using the telecommons and prior to medication.

Who are they for?
Patients who are unable to independently decontaminate their hands by other hand washing or use of alcohol hand gel

What should they NOT be used for?

- Staff hands
- Patients who can access hand washing sink/alcohol hand rub
- Cleaning
- Any part of the body other than patients hands

When should they be used?

- After using the telecommons/visits/bedpan
- Prior to medication
- If patients hands become contaminated

How should they be used?
Patients who require hand wipes are provided with their own pack, which is kept at their bedside. Their name should be written on the front of the packet. Explanations about the hand wipes to be provided to the patient. Patients who are unable to use them independently should be given assistance where required.

How should they be disposed of?
Wipes must be placed in a black waste bin, NOT flushed down the toilet or put in the receptacle.

What happens when the patient leaves the ward?
The pack of hand wipes goes with the patient. The wipes cannot be shared between patients.

How do we order the patient hand wipes?
Wipes should be ordered using the new services and disposable pack, using order code **MAC 428**. They should be ordered per case, with 35 individual packs of wipes per case.

Please contact your infection control nurse if further advice is required
Infection Control, NHS Tayside
August 2007

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Implementation of Patient Hand Wipes using PDSA Cycle (Institute for Healthcare Improvement)

www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/Improvement/ImprovementMethods/HowToImprove



Successful Utilisation of PDSA Cycle for Implementation of Patient Hand Wipes

- Five wards of mixed speciality
- One nurse, one patient
- Three nurses, three patients
- Five nurses, five patients
- Final spread out of wipes in every directorate/hospital throughout NHS Tayside

Something Still Missing?

- Patient hand hygiene leaflet
 - Consultation with ICT
 - Collaboration with Tayside PPG
 - Graphics by Alistair McGillivray, Public Health, Kings Cross Hospital
 - Distribution



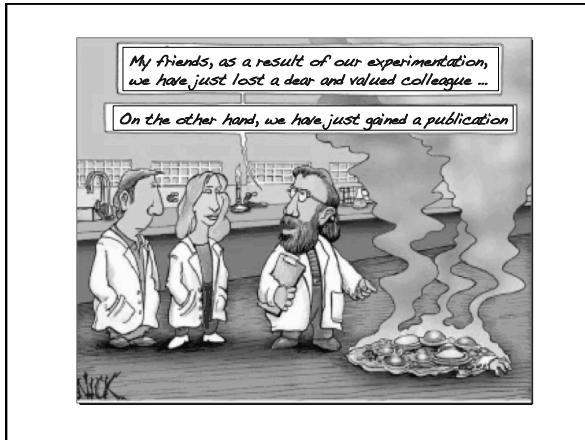
<p>Why Should I Clean My Hands?</p> <p><i>If you clean your hands correctly, it can greatly reduce the risk of infection. Keeping your hands clean is a very simple task.</i></p>	<p>What More Can I do?</p> <p>Care of your hands is very important. Always cover any cuts with a waterproof plaster.</p> <p>To protect your hands, apply hand cream when you can. This will help to prevent dryness and chapping of your hands.</p>
<p>When Should I Clean My Hands?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After visiting the toilet, using a commode, bedpan or urinal • Before eating or handling food • If your hands look or feel dirty 	<p>Hand Washing Technique</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Place palm-to-palm and rub 2 Place one hand over the back of the other, and rub. Repeat with the other hand 3 Place palm-to-palm, lace your fingers and rub between them 4 Make a fist and rub each hand into the other 5 Hold your thumb and rub round and round. Repeat with the other thumb 6 Bunch your fingers and rub back and forward in the palms of each hand
<p>How Do I Clean My Hands?</p> <p>Hand Washing Hand washing is the most preferred way to clean your hands. Remove your watch and veil hands before applying soap. Rub all areas of hands and wrists thoroughly with the soapy lather. Remember to pay special attention to fingertips, thumbs and between your fingers. If you have any rings on, you should wash underneath. Finally, rinse and dry hands and wrists thoroughly.</p> <p>Alcohol Hand Rub If you are unable to access a hand washing sink, alcohol hand rub can be used. Always check with the nurses that it is okay for you to use it. Rub some solution into all areas of your hands and wrists and allow to dry. It should not be washed off and cannot be used on hands that are visibly dirty. We advise you to wash your hands with soap and water after you have used the hand rub 5 times in a row.</p> <p>Hand Wipes If you are unable to access a hand washing sink or use the alcohol hand rub, you will be provided with your own pack of hand wipes. Please ask a nurse for a pack if you have not been given one. Rub the wipe over all areas of your hands and wrists and allow to dry. A nurse will help you to do this if required. Place the used wipe in a bin or a disposable bag provided.</p>	<p>Remember to include your wrists, then rinse and dry thoroughly</p>

Summary

- Deficiency in clinical practice in relation to patient hand hygiene
- Key strategies identified
- Effective implementation of wipes utilising the SPI PDSA cycle throughout NHS Tayside
- Development of patient hand wipe poster
- Development of patient hand hygiene leaflet
- Education
- Audit
- Further research
- Publication

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