



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Submitting author: Dr Ka Ming WONG

Post title: Resident, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, KEC

"We Love Clean Hands 2013" - Improvement of hand hygiene compliance by a hand hygiene campaign

Wong KM, Lai TY, Tang MY, WU CP, Chong LC

Department of Surgery, Tseung Kwan O Hospital

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Introduction

Hand hygiene is an important element in patient safety by reducing the transmission of hospital-acquired infection between patients. Though the importance of hand hygiene is reiterated, yet the compliance needs improvement. A Hand Hygiene Campaign was launched to help health care workers to identify and overcome the barriers to proper hand hygiene and improve compliance with hand hygiene.

Objectives

To improve hand hygiene by increasing the compliance of hand washing among health care workers before and after patient care through a series of promotional activities in a hand hygiene campaign.

Methodology

The hand hygiene campaign was launched in the Department of Surgery, Tseung Kwan O Hospital in the period of July 2013 to Nov 2013. There were 3 phases in the campaign (Phase I: identification of Obstacles; Phase II: intervention; Phase III: Improvement). A series of promotional activities were carried out including poster competition, kick off signing ceremony, hand hygiene educational talks, role model promotion etc. An audit of hand hygiene compliance was performed after each phase. In view of the low compliance among doctors at baseline audit, doctors were specially invited to act as role models, aiming to improve their compliance by applying peer pressure to them.

Result

The most reported obstacles to hand hygiene compliance were forgetfulness (51%), high number of opportunity for hand hygiene per hour of patient care (16%) and lack of knowledge (15%). The overall compliance of hand hygiene at the baseline audit was 37%, with doctors having the lowest compliance rate (28%). After a series of promotional activities, the overall compliance with hand hygiene among staff improved to 70% (mid-term audit) and eventually to 81% (final audit). Among doctors,

the compliance was significantly improved to 79% at the final audit. Therefore the hand hygiene campaign is an effective tool to improve the compliance of hand hygiene among hospital staff for better patient care. Subsequent annual audit is recommended to monitor the compliance.