

HAC 2016 ABSTRACT for Oral Presentations

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Project title

Hand Hygiene Campaign in Siu Lam Hospital – a participative and transdisciplinary approach

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Introduction

Siu Lam Hospital (SLH) is a 500-bed hospital providing infirmity services to adults with severe learning disabilities. They are vulnerable to various kinds of infections. During 2013-2014, total number of confirmed cases who required cohort nursing for nosocomial or gastrointestinal infections increased from 52 to 71 with an average length of cohort duration raised from 14 days to 17 days. Besides, there were 5 and 11 staff being diagnosed with related infection during the outbreak period in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Hand hygiene is the most effective tool to prevent health care-associated infections and the best strategy to protect health care workers from infections. To foster a culture that values the importance of hand hygiene practice, we developed and adopted a new strategy involving participation of the whole healthcare team of SLH with strong supports from hospital management and the Cluster Infection Control Team.

Objectives

(1)To prevent health care-associated infections through enhancement of hand hygiene practice; (2) to increase staff awareness on the importance of hand hygiene in combating infections; (3) to establish role modelling in hand hygiene practice; (4) to foster a culture that treasures hand hygiene practice.

Methodology

(1)A task force including nurses, allied health colleagues, doctor and cluster ICNs was formed in July 2015. (2) Badge was designed and produced to signify the hand hygiene ambassadors. A hand hygiene song was created by frontline staff. ICNs of NTWC provided souvenirs to reinforce hand hygiene practice and rendered timely feedback to clinical staff. (3) New staff were engaged to ensure succession of the new culture. (4) Hand hygiene ambassadors were recruited to act as role models and buddies. (5) Presentations were held in various departmental meetings. Kick-off ceremony was held in Nov 2015. NTWC CC(MHI) / SLH CONS, GM(N), DOM(P), SNO(ICN) and NTWC Safety Coordinator led the handprint ceremony that hallmarked support and commitment of top management. (6) Promotional activities including broadcasting hand hygiene song in clinical areas, displaying poster, dispatching souvenir, taking photo and enhancing hand hygiene equipment / facility were conducted.

Result

A hospital-wide staff opinion survey with 67% (260 staff) respond rate was conducted in January 2016. 79-85% agreed the hand hygiene song strengthened their memory on the “5 moments” and “7 steps” of hand hygiene. 92% agreed the campaign enhanced hand hygiene practice and enriched their understanding on the importance of hand hygiene practice. 88% replied they liked the campaign. The number of hand hygiene ambassadors increased from 56 to 116 across different ranks and disciplines which indicated an increase of 107% within four months. Up till January 2016, we have 62 (27%) support workers, 33 (30%) frontline nurses, 11 (48%) nurse supervisors, 2 (33%) medical staff and 8 (38%) allied health colleagues volunteered themselves to be the hand hygiene ambassadors. It represents 30% of the workforce of SLH. The average number of patients being infected during outbreaks was reduced by 69% and the average

duration of cohort nursing was reduced by 30% Thus, patient safety was also improved.