



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Effective Hand Hygiene Promotion Measures to Improve Hand Hygiene Compliance Rate**

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#### **Introduction**

According to World Health Organization, hand hygiene is one of the most effective methods to prevent transmission of pathogens associated with health care. Our hospital hand hygiene audit showed that the compliance rate in our unit declined to below 80% in Q4 2014. This may foster transmission of organisms resulting in increased length of stay, morbidity and mortality of patients, particularly if the organism is a multi-drug resistant one. Staff in our unit reflect that the current hospital standard 'contact precaution' signage is not prominent enough to alert them to the infectious status of the patient and suggest having more eye-catching reminder. They also propose installing more accessible hand hygiene facilities at the isolation room exit to facilitate them to perform hand hygiene upon leaving the room. Hence, a series of new and innovative measures were implemented in our unit last year to promote hand hygiene and to improve hand hygiene compliance rate.

#### **Objectives**

1. To introduce new and innovative hand hygiene promotion measures which are effective in reminding staff to perform hand hygiene 2. To improve hand hygiene compliance rate.

#### **Methodology**

1. Suggestion of effective hand hygiene promotion measures was collected from staff.  
2. New and innovative hand hygiene promotion measures were introduced in our unit including i) covering patients requiring contact precaution with a designated 'red bed sheet' with eye-catching contact precaution signage on top; ii) placing a mobile screen with hand hygiene reminder and hand rub facilities at isolation room exit; iii) placing magnified contact precaution signage at the bed head and iv) installing hand hygiene reminder as screensaver at every bedside 'clinical information system' station. 3. Satisfaction survey and hospital hand hygiene audit were used as outcome measures

to evaluate effectiveness of the measures.

### **Result**

1. Questionnaires were distributed to 112 healthcare professionals in our unit with 100 completed questionnaires returned. 89% of participants agree that the new measures are more effective in reminding them to perform hand hygiene. 2. The hospital hand hygiene audit showed that the compliance rate in our unit increased from below 80% (Q4 2014) to 90% (Q4 2015). The conclusion is that the new hand hygiene promotion measures are effective in reminding staff to perform hand hygiene and can improve hand hygiene compliance rate.