

Hand Washing To Reduce Infections

CLINICAL ISSUE

Evidence has shown that hand hygiene reduces healthcare-associated infections. Hand hygiene is the most effective intervention to stop the spread of infection. “More than 150 years ago Ignaz Semmelweis and Oliver Wendell Holmes independently concluded that the hands of health care providers could transmit infection to patients” (Patrick & Van Wicklin, 2012 p.493). Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital’s PACU hand hygiene scores decreased from April – August 2016.

DESCRIPTION OF TEAM

The hand hygiene committee consisting of three PACU team members and the infection control practitioner collaborated to increase hand hygiene scores.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

“Effective hand hygiene by health care personnel supports the maxim of “first, do no harm.” Hand hygiene is currently considered to be the cornerstone for preventing the spread of pathogenic organisms” (Patrick et al., 2012 p. 494).

- Hand hygiene team educated staff on the importance of hand hygiene and nursing implications
- Organized educational activities to educate and increase staff compliance
- Foam dispensers were added to the outside of patient rooms
- Internal direct observations addressed specific individuals who were not compliant.
- Positive reinforcement provided to compliant staff members.

ASSESSMENT

Monthly hand hygiene observations were completed by the Infection Preventionist in the PACU based on the following protocol:

Indications for Hand Hygiene with Soap and Water or Foam Sanitizer:

- Before and after contact with each patient
- Before and after wearing gloves
- After contact with the patient care environment and equipment
- After any contact with self (blowing nose, touching face, rubbing eyes, eating or using the restroom)

Unit: _____ Date: _____
 Day of week (circle) Mon Tue Wed Th Fri Sa Sun
 Time started ___ am/pm (circle) Time finished ___ am pm (circle)
 Name of Observer _____

Profession (circle one)	Did the employee wash hands or use alcohol gel or foam?			
	Entering room		Exiting room	
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
MD ANT RN SAT TP Other (name) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No

IMPLEMENTATION

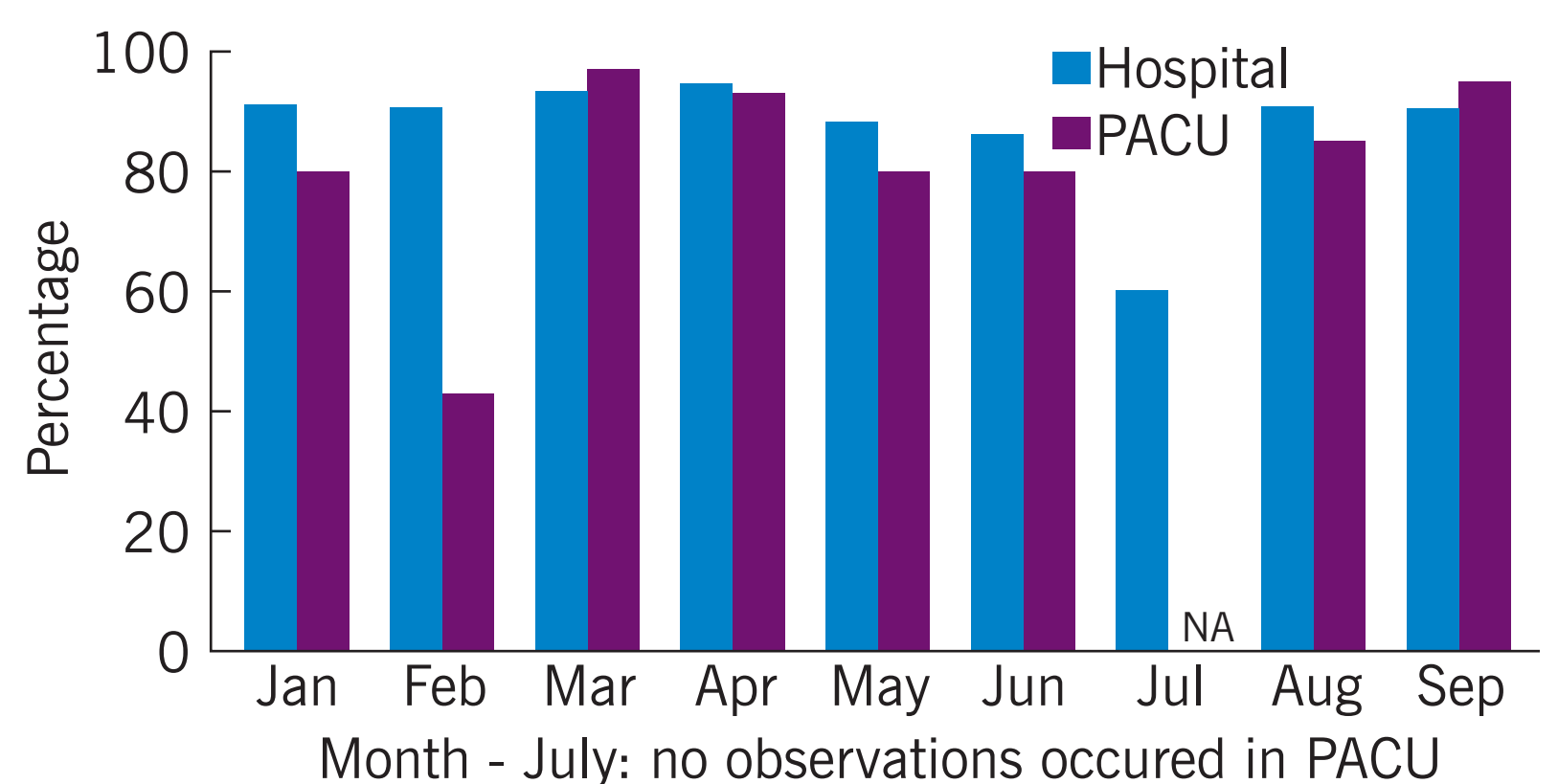
Educating health care providers on hand hygiene and the purpose and use of products is crucial for a hospital-wide hand hygiene program. Opportunities to engage and educate experienced staff:

- Online game based learning – Kahoot (Review/test questions, survey staff)
- Life Saver – Thank you card with a life saver attached was given to those observed conducting hand hygiene.
- Internal Observations
- You Tube Video “Hand-washing Gangnam Style”
- Coloring Contest – Relieve stress coloring pictures of well- known characters washing their hands. Top 3 pictures won a prize relating to hand hygiene
- Enterprise code word SNAP (Scrub Now and Prevent)
- Hand Hygiene Task Force with Volunteer Champions



OUTCOME

- Increased compliance noted in August and September 2016
 - Staff engaged and actively promoting hand hygiene
- 2016 Hand Hygiene Compliance Observations by Infection Preventionist Goal 100%



NURSING IMPLICATIONS

- Educated staff members increases compliance of hand hygiene
- Positive reinforcement to increase compliance
- Hand-washing prevents illnesses and spread of infections between patients and staff
- A standardized protocol allows the nurses to deliver safe, quality, and evidence based patient care

REFERENCE

Patrick, M. & Van Wicklin, S. (2012). Implementing AORN recommended practices for hand hygiene. *AORN Journal*, 95 (4), 492-504.