

## **REVOLUTIONIZING HAND HYGIENE WITH INSTITUTIONAL CLARITY**

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**Background Information:** Hand hygiene (HH) is the standard practice in health care. HH requires diligence, conformity, commitment, and institutional clarity to provide safer conditions that benefit both patients and staff. Our institution lacked a standardized hand hygiene (HH) survey tool for patients to audit staff. Ambulatory clinics used many inconsistent designs of HH audits, which were not reader-friendly. The authors identified gaps in uniformity system-wide that affected consistency of tools, patient education and data collection. Improving a HH survey tool, and incorporating phase developments for institutional adoption was planned.

**Objectives of Project:** Collaboration with three interprofessional disciplines to initiate a hand hygiene compliance revolution. Using an innovative survey tool, integrate three project phases for rollout, clinic adoption and outpatient data collection.

**Process of Implementation:** Create a system-wide HH compliance revolution using an improved survey tool, led by three institutional healthcare disciplines. Implement evidence-based practices and health literacy methods. A perianesthesia nurse educator collaborated with the Health Literacy Office (HLO) to create HH survey, which was a nurse-driven improvement project. Infection Prevention and Control Department (IPCD) collaborated with the HLO to customize survey for each clinic. The survey tool asks a straight-forward question, requests yes/no answers to evaluate team members at each clinic; display colored scrub graphics to help patients identify staff members, and a clinic logo or name as recognized by patients.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** HH adoption and integration works best through cooperative team work. New HH tool replaced older hand hygiene surveys. Patient education is now reader-friendly, standardized and customized for each clinic. Collaboration with 29 out of 50+ clinics to date has occurred in the first phase of this institutional rollout. REDCap survey evaluation tools created to identify further process improvement opportunities. Each project phase moves towards advancing a standardized HH survey tool, patient education, staff scripting, handwashing compliance and anticipated data collection. Positive feedback has been received on surveys from leadership, staff, patients, and other institutions.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Empower patients to request HH from providers in direct patient care settings. Health literacy strategies ensure effective oral scripting and written materials for staff and patients. Create multidisciplinary education throughout the institution. Design an ambulatory HH observation database.