

HAND HYGIENE TO PREVENT INFECTIONS

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Background: Hand washing is the single most effective intervention to stop the spread of healthcare related infections. This poster validates the importance of team participation to promote hand hygiene compliance in the dynamic perioperative environment. In February 2016, the hand washing observation score for the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) at Marymount Hospital plummeted to a low of 43 percent, the lowest score in the hospital. The implications of this problem affect patients, families, caregivers, and the rising costs of health care. It is the responsibility of health care professionals to identify the factors contributing to hand hygiene non-compliance. This poster outlines this department's hand hygiene assessment, the implementation of interventions, and the subsequent hand hygiene compliance observation scores, which substantiate the department's improvement efforts. This poster depicts a crusade to promote hand hygiene compliance and patient safety with purpose, reinforcement, and ways to promote active employee involvement. The opportunity for continuous improvement exists to measure the efficacy of this hand hygiene improvement initiative.

Objectives of Project: To increase and sustain hand hygiene compliance rates.
To engage and educate staff on the importance of hand hygiene.

Process of 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”
- Enterprise code word SNAP (Scrub Now and Prevent)
- Hand Hygiene Task Force with Volunteer Champions

Statement of Successful Practice: Through staff education, visual cues, direct observations, and the addition of foam hand sanitizers, the PACU hand washing compliance score has more than doubled since the inception of this program.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

- 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