

**Gel In Gel Out: Perioperative Hand Hygiene Compliance**  
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**Introduction:** Proper hand hygiene is the number one preventative measure to the improving patient health outcomes following surgical intervention. 1 in 4 hospitals fail in hand hygiene, and 1 in 25 hospital patients have at least one healthcare associated infection (HAI) on any given day. Hand hygiene compliance of the peri anesthesia team in the Pre-op and PACU area was measured prior to and after implementing measures to determine an evolving change in hand hygiene compliance.

**Identification of the problem:** Noncompliance with appropriate hand hygiene before and after patient care.

**QI question/Purpose of the study:** The purpose of this study was to see what variables could be implemented to assist the staff at achieving hand hygiene compliance.

**Methods:** Observational measurements were obtained pre and post intervention by a 'secret shopper,' in addition to monitoring the frequency of the gel sanitizer replacements in the perioperative area.

**Outcomes/Results:** Following the introduction of additional hand sanitizer dispensers in patient care areas, as well as ongoing staff education, the rate of hand hygiene compliance significantly improved.

**Discussion:** This study did not measure the rates of healthcare associated infections (HAI) due to the multifactorial influences that contribute to HAI in this vulnerable patient population. By instituting additional practices to improve awareness and knowledge, as well as improved accessibility to dispensers, compliance rates did increase. Meeting regulatory standards and achieving hand hygiene benchmarks continues to be a priority at our institution.

**Conclusion:** Prior to implementation of "Gel In Gel Out," compliance with hand hygiene was well below acceptable levels for the preoperative and PACU team at City of Hope. By providing ongoing education and statistics to staff, as well as increasing accessibility of hand gel sanitizer dispensers in the treatment area, compliance improved.

**Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research:** It is imperative that maintaining an effective infection control program for continued compliance is the forefront for improved patient outcomes. A concerted effort to further determine what factors contribute most to lower rates of compliance in the peri-anesthesia area is of continued importance.