

Determinants of Hand Hygiene Among Nurses: Quality Improvement

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The goal of quality improvement is to use data to track care procedures' outcomes and apply improvement methodologies to create and test changes that will improve the quality and safety of healthcare systems over time (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). In this high-risk environment, hand cleanliness remains an essential and effective technique for preventing healthcare-associated infections, making it a high-impact target for hospital quality improvement programs. Hand hygiene is an excellent strategy to keep diseases at bay. According to statistics, healthcare personnel only sanitize their hands around half the time they should. Hand hygiene helps stop the spread of healthcare-associated infections, afflicting one out of every 31 hospital patients on any given day.

Article Summary

The current study is a qualitative investigation into the elements that influence the nursing staff's hand-hygiene behavior at Shariati Hospital in Tehran, Iran. The nursing staff of Shariati Hospital of Tehran University of Medical Sciences conducted 16 in-depth semi-structured interviews (Ghaffari et al., 2020). A suitable sampling method was used and repeated until the data was saturated and no new codes or categories were detected (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Researchers found the data using the Graham and Landsman qualitative content analysis method. The findings of this study indicated three significant themes in the Theory of Planned Behavior and eight major topics outside of it (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Because of the additional characteristics identified in this study, it suggests that theories and models be integrated into the design of treatments to improve adherence to hand hygiene practices (Ghaffari et al., 2020).

Introduction

Hand hygiene is a simple technique to reduce hospital infections, prevent antimicrobial resistance, and ensure the safety of patients. Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of hospital illnesses. Hospital infections would be reduced by 50% if everyone washed their hands (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Hospital infections increase patients' stays and cost patients and the country's healthcare system much money. They may also result in death. Hand hygiene remains a crucial and effective approach for reducing healthcare-associated infections in this high-risk environment, making it a high-impact target for hospital quality improvement programs (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Maintaining good hand hygiene is a great way to keep infections low.

Overview

Theory of planned behavior components, environment, perceptions, education, corporate culture, salience, lifestyle, personality, and morality, were identified as influential factors in hand hygiene in the current study (Ghaffari et al., 2020). The three core categories of TPB were attitude, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. Other themes gleaned from this study include "unawareness of dirty hands" and "increasing personnel's knowledge of the importance of handwashing" (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Reviewing the current condition of hand hygiene and staff awareness and performance helps to think of appropriate policies to encourage hand hygiene (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4).

Quality Improvement

Implementing hand washing would best be done in the hospital setting for quality improvement. Multiple resources would be needed to implement this change. There would need

to be research to ensure that the instruction is correct, approval from a committee, funding for supplies, ensuring that nurse educators are ready to teach, and ensuring that everyone is ready and has time to practice during the pre-implementation stage. In the intraphase, documentation and quality assurance inspections are required to ensure that everything is in place for effective schooling. Keep data in the post-phase to ensure the quality improvement plan is operating. Because of the supply, demand, and necessity for nurses, education will be pricey. Because of the time spent receiving an education, nursing satisfaction may be low. The fact that the patients will not become infected will bring them relief. Hand hygiene education will also improve the safety of nurses and patients.

Application to Nursing

In order to promote adherence to hand hygiene standards, it is crucial to ensure that healthcare staff has received the proper training. Medical personnel must follow the approach strictly and adhere to it. Without it, nosocomial infections may occur more frequently, leading to problems.

Practice

Using complementary stimuli-based tactics increase handwashing compliance by up to 70%. Moreover, by using audiovisual materials in addition to conventional teaching strategies, handwashing compliance is increased more effectively (Martos-Cabrera et al., 2019). Practice is the foundation for skill dominance to find solutions that go beyond the conventional teaching methods.

Education

The results of numerous research carried out in various institutions revealed modest and even poor levels of adherence to advised hand-hygiene procedures, demonstrating that such adherence varied by hospital ward and by kind of healthcare worker (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Based on the outcomes, creating different instructional programs might be instructive. All healthcare workers have a different way of learning.

Research

Future research will be required to analyze the relationship between the discovered factors, find other determinants, and generalize the findings due to the qualitative study's nature (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Finally, the current research is a shared experience that can add to other similar bodies of research. As a result, the requirement for theory-based therapies using an integrated strategy made up of theories and models appears to be of considerable assistance (Ghaffari et al., 2020). Additional similar research is required to pinpoint hygiene determinants in other hypotheses and models.

Conclusion

QSEN's goal is to ensure that nurses have the information, abilities, and attitudes required to enhance the standard and safety of the healthcare systems continuously (QSEN Institute, 2020, Table 4). Nurses who wash their hands lower their chance of spreading illness to others while preventing them from becoming ill. They risk infecting their patients and family members if they do not adequately wash their hands before interacting with others. Education about good hand hygiene should be routine and is crucial in the medical field.

References

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