

Hand Hygiene Compliance: Quality Improvement

Jakarra Dandridge

Lakeview College of Nursing

Dr. Ariel Wright

06/16/2022

Hand Hygiene Compliance: Quality Improvement

The framework for methodically improving care is quality improvement. Quality improvement eliminates variation, generates predictable results, and enhances outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and companies by standardizing processes and structure. Due to the general necessity to identify ways for learning about the outcomes of care in the setting in which one is involved in clinical practice, knowledge plays an essential role in quality improvement. The requirement to be able to perform specific tasks relies heavily on one's skills. To make care processes explicit, employ tools (such as flow charts and cause-and-effect diagrams). Individuals and teams must maintain a positive attitude to appreciate and value what they can do to improve care (QSEN Institute, 2020). Hand cleanliness is a primary but efficient method of infection prevention. Hand hygiene can help prevent the transmission of germs, especially antibiotic-resistant bacteria that are becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to cure (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). Because nurses interact with patients, appropriate hand hygiene is critical in both healthcare and the nursing sector.

Article Summary

Introduction

One of the most critical methods for preventing nursing home residents from nosocomial infections is good hand cleanliness. Infections with multi-resistant bacteria are a well-known concern in the healthcare industry. Hand hygiene compliance in nursing homes can improve by increasing knowledge, behavior, and attitudes (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). This research will examine the effects of individual and organizational factors on hand hygiene in nurses,

focusing on the role of nursing managers as role models. It can help with the spread of infections.

Overview

Hand hygiene is one of the most important ways to reduce nosocomial infections in nursing home residents. Multi-resistant bacteria infections are a well-known problem in the healthcare profession. Increased knowledge, behavior, and attitudes can increase hand hygiene compliance in nursing homes (QSEN Institute, 2020). Knowledge plays a crucial part in quality improvement since it is generally necessary to identify means of learning about the results of care in the setting in which one is involved in clinical practice. It largely depends on one's skills to accomplish various activities. Teams and individuals must keep a positive attitude to recognize and value what they can do to enhance care (QSEN Institute, 2020). The effects of individual and organizational factors on hand hygiene in nurses will be a focus in this study, also focusing on the role of nursing managers as role models. It has the potential to reduce the spread of illnesses.

Quality Improvement

Improving hand hygiene should concentrate on measures that make it easier for nurses to access hand disinfection chemicals in their local work environment. Furthermore, nursing managers should be aware of the importance of their role model job and put it into practice daily. According to the findings, separate interventions targeted at improving hand hygiene in nursing homes will have little impact unless accompanied by a typical attitude among nurses and nursing managers that prioritizes hygiene management for resident safety. During the pre-stages for implementation of hand washing, it is essential that everyone has a positive attitude and that

everyone is willing to make a change for the better. During the Intra stages, it is crucial to have the supplies and skills to perform the handwashing task correctly. During the post stages, everyone must know why it is vital to keep up proper handwashing. The creation of a safety culture and a shift in nurses' perceptions of nursing homes as healthcare facilities with significant infection risks will be required to improve awareness and encourage compliance with hand hygiene behavior (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019).

Application to Nursing

Practice

Making a long-lasting transformation depends on having the right attitude, abilities, and information regarding hand washing. For infection prevention, consistency, equipment, and proper hand washing are ideal nursing practices. Having materials on hand in every workstation is also beneficial. This study surveys one hundred sixty-five nurses in a mixed-methods study and interviews twenty-seven nursing managers. The lack of a sink in the nursing home was determined to be a significant barrier to maintaining good hand hygiene. Without the necessary tools, it will be difficult for staff to wash their hands (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019).

Preventing many multidrug-resistant illnesses in nursing homes by nurses practicing proper hand hygiene, organizational factors such as hygiene training, resource availability, and enhanced nursing managers' role modeling this behavior influences these changes (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019).

Education

According to research, individual knowledge gaps affect safe hand hygiene practices in nursing homes, such as the recommended amount of time for hand washing and hand rubs. Establishing a comprehensive hand hygiene program to increase hand hygiene compliance and adherence in nursing homes was also proven to minimize the incidences of severe infection (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). The study's staff members maintain a binder with cleanliness requirements. It is also accessible in the residential sections, where staff members can examine items if necessary (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019).

Research

Methods for facilitating the distribution of hand disinfection materials in nurses' immediate work areas should be the main focus of efforts to improve hand hygiene. If nurses and nursing managers do not hold hygiene management as a priority for resident safety, isolated programs aiming at improving hand cleanliness in nursing homes will have minimal impact. Creating a safety culture and changing how nurses view nursing homes as healthcare facilities with significant infection risks are necessary to increase awareness and support compliant hand hygiene behavior. Nursing management and employees should follow national "Action-Clean-Hands" guidelines for nursing homes to reduce the risk of cross-infection among residents (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019).

Conclusion

The quality improvement provides the basis for methodically enhancing healthcare. By establishing standardized procedures and organizational structures, quality improvement reduces variation, produces predictable outcomes, and improves outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and businesses. Knowledge plays a crucial part in quality improvement since it is

generally necessary to identify means of learning about the results of care in the setting in which one is involved in clinical practice. It strongly depends on one's skills to accomplish various activities. Use technologies to clarify care processes (such as flow charts and cause-and-effect diagrams). Teams and individuals must keep a positive outlook to recognize and value what they can do to enhance care (QSEN Institute, 2020). A simple but effective way of infection prevention is hand hygiene. Hand washing can help stop the spread of germs, particularly antibiotic-resistant bacteria that are becoming more challenging, if not impossible, to treat (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). Proper hand hygiene is essential in the nursing and healthcare industries since nurses deal with patients.

References

- Hammerschmidt, J., & Manser, T. (2019). Nurses' knowledge, behaviour and compliance concerning hand hygiene in nursing homes: A cross-sectional mixed-methods study. *BMC Health Services Research*, 19(1), 1-13.
- Houser, J. (2023). *Nursing research: Reading, using, and creating evidence* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN Competencies*.
https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality_improvement