

**Resident-Driven Quality Improvement Project in Perioperative Hand Hygiene: Quality  
Improvement**

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## **Resident-Driven Quality Improvement Project in Perioperative Hand Hygiene: Quality Improvement**

Quality improvement is the foundation used to improve and monitor the outcomes of care processes (QSEN Institute, 2020). Information related to quality improvement describes the strategies for learning care outcomes in clinical practice and how healthcare professionals affect patients' and families' outcomes (QSEN Institute, 2020). Charts, diagrams, and quality measures help understand the performance and variation of skills related to quality improvement that seek information for specific populations (QSEN Institute, 2020). Quality improvement helps nurses know how it is essential to patient care (QSEN Institute, 2020). This study is to improve perioperative hand hygiene among surgical staff.

### **Article Summary**

#### **Introduction**

As a perioperative surgical staff, hand hygiene is critical to reducing the risk of infection among surgical patients. This study aims to improve hand hygiene compliance in the perioperative setting (Pimentel et al., 2019). This qualitative study conducted 1122 hand hygiene observations over 29 months (Pimentel et al., 2019). The data gathered from the qualitative research was interpreted through statistical analysis and then plotted on a data chart (Pimentel et al., 2019). This article discusses how the study sustained increased perioperative hand hygiene compliance among resident surgical staff while engaging in-house staff members throughout the study (Pimentel et al., 2019). Increasing proper perioperative hand hygiene compliance among resident surgical staff will decrease the risk of infection and improve patient safety. This quality improvement effort could be implemented in any nursing department by observing how staff first

washes their hands. Next, the nursing department should perform an education session on hand hygiene. Lastly, the nursing department should analyze whether their teaching method is effective.

### **Overview**

This study emphasizes the impact of perioperative hand hygiene compliance and ways to improve perioperative hand hygiene (Pimentel et al., 2019). The hand hygiene compliance of healthcare workers needs improvement. The current hand hygiene compliance rate remains at 40% in hospitals worldwide (Pimentel et al., 2019). Improving the hand hygiene compliance rate in hospitals would dramatically benefit the fight against hospital-acquired infections. This study relates to the QSEN competency of *Quality Improvement* by exploring the impact of hand hygiene before and after education was provided to perioperative staff. With the collected data, researchers concluded that the interventions they offered to the perioperative team increased the quality of hand hygiene by ten percent (Pimentel et al., 2019).

### **Quality Improvement**

This article suggests that if perioperative staff is included in improving hand hygiene, they are more likely to comply with hand hygiene (Pimentel et al., 2019). *Quality Improvement*, such as the interventions and the necessary resources for hand hygiene for perioperative staff, can be implemented in the hospital throughout. Financially this *quality improvement* would not cause a financial burden to the hospital but somewhat rather reduce the hospital cost by preventing hospital-acquired infections. The pre-implementation stage would involve having the institution approve of the change in how hand hygiene items are implemented throughout the hospital. The intra-implementation step ensures that the implementation change is beneficial and functional. An infection control nurse or doctor can assist staff who are not adequately following hand

hygiene to learn the proper hand hygiene guidelines. This would increase nursing satisfaction by following reasonable procedures and would also increase patient safety as well. The post-implementation stage can involve an annual survey of the implementation change regarding proper hand hygiene and how it has improved infection control throughout the hospital. Following good hand hygiene will reduce hospital-acquired infections in patients.

### **Application to Nursing**

#### **Practice**

The concern about reducing patients' risk for infection is crucial. The best practice is to improve hand hygiene practices. They know when the healthcare staff should wash their hands with soap and water and when they can use hand sanitizer. Healthcare staff should have their hands before touching a patient, after touching a patient, and after touching a patient's surroundings (Pimentel et al., 2019). Observing the staff and ensuring they follow the correct rules for hand hygiene guidelines. The team following the proper procedures will reduce the patients' risk for hospital-acquired infections.

#### **Education**

Guidelines for educating healthcare staff about hand hygiene are vital for reducing patients' risk for infection. Engaging the trainees during the planning stage and implementation led to a successful improvement in the hand hygiene program (Pimentel et al., 2019). Proper hand hygiene is recommended and taught to nurses and professional medical workers throughout their careers in the medical field. Before a medical staff touches a patient, they may use a hand sanitizer, and when exiting a patient's room, the medical team may use a hand sanitizer (Pimentel et al., 2019). Medical staff must wash their hands if they risk encountering a patient's

body fluids or are visibly dirty (Pimentel et al., 2019). Giving the medical staff the proper education and guidelines will improve hand hygiene and reduce patient infection risk.

## **Research**

Priorities for further study included conducting qualitative studies about hospital-acquired infections. These findings will help provide quality information on how hand hygiene affects the patient's risk for disease (Pimentel et al., 2019). Implementing reformatory and feasible hand hygiene training will benefit patients' health and medical staff in reducing healthcare costs. Further research on hospital-acquired infections and proper hand hygiene will show a correlation between poor hand hygiene and increased risk for diseases. This will also show how adequate hand hygiene will reduce the risk of infection in patients.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of *quality improvement*, specifically the knowledge, skills, and attitudes, emphasizes the importance and improvement of patient outcomes (QSEN Institute, 2020). Exploring the necessary information, strategies for learning, and attitudes reflected on *quality improvement* are essential for patient care and help improve aid care-related outcomes (QSEN Institute, 2020). Medical staff not following proper hand hygiene guidelines are increasing the risk of patients acquiring infections. Including the medical staff in ways to improve hand hygiene increased the compliance rate of the team (Pimentel et al., 2019). With the increased compliance rate of hand hygiene from this study, it is beneficial in reducing the cost of hospital-acquired infections among patients and improving the patients' safety.

### References

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