

Infection Prevention Enablement: Quality Improvement

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Preventative measures such as hand hygiene are essential for Quality Improvement to lower the rate of Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). The lack of proper hand hygiene is one of the preventable errors in healthcare that needs to be improved. Comfere et al. (2020) state that Quality improvement gives the healthcare worker staff the fundamental responsibility to improve the system they have at their work. Thus, Quality Improvement suggests that front-line staff have two jobs: first, to do the work they were trained in, and second, to improve the system in their workplace. QSEN suggests the Plan-Do-Study-Act experiential learning method that aligns the measures, aims, and involved changes in improving care (QSEN Institute, 2020). The article discussed in this paper aims to explore hand hygiene behaviors, General Practitioners' (GPs) attitudes toward preventative measures against infection, and the enablement of nursing home residents to perform hand hygiene. It is the client's right to live in an environment free from HAIs and other infections, and this study is beneficial in improving the quality of care and preventative measures.

Article Summary

This article discusses the exploration of hand hygiene behaviors, the attitudes of GPs towards the measurement of preventing infection, and the enablement of nursing home residents to perform hand hygiene (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). The article suggests that hand hygiene practices differ in every nursing home, and residents' active participation varies. There is a limited supply of hand rub solutions, and the instructions for residents were not described. As a result, nursing home residents experience multidrug-resistant organisms (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). There is a need for continuous enablement for nursing home residents by GPs to achieve

proper hand hygiene. The study also suggests that the existing hand hygiene and infection control and prevention do not cover nursing home care settings adequately.

Introduction

This article is a qualitative study investigating the hand hygiene practices of GPs, the GPs' attitudes toward measures for infection prevention in nursing homes, and the enablement of residents to perform hand hygiene measures (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). The article highlights hand hygiene as an essential measure to protect residents from healthcare-associated infection (HAI) (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). Furthermore, the resident's enablement to perform hand hygiene from teaching, assistance, and promoting of healthcare provider was assessed. This article is beneficial to improve the quality of care because enablement in performing measures to prevent infection could possibly stop the chain of infection that leads to cross-contamination and spread to the nursing home environment.

Overview

The article about the enablement of nursing home residents in measures that prevent infection and the attitudes of GPs toward infection prevention measures has a significant impact on nursing practice (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). During Data analysis, all the interviews with GPs and nursing home residents were audio-recorded anonymously, and a professional translator transcribed German verbatim into English. The researchers used problem-based interviews and acknowledged the fact that there is no uniform practice on hand hygiene in the different individual nursing homes (Hammerschmidt et al., 2022). The results of this study will be of great use in Quality Improvement and Safety competency because it will provide necessary changes

that will increase the enablement of nursing home residents to perform hand hygiene. Good hand hygiene indicates that there is good quality in patient safety.

Quality Improvement

Preventing safety incidents requires action. A change in attitude of GPs toward measures of preventing infection is needed, and adequate availability of antiseptic hand rub is beneficial. According to this article, antiseptic hand rub is the measure that is most effective for preventing infection (Hammerschmidt et al., 2022). Results from data analysis can be pivotal for improving the client's quality of care. Financially, this significantly affects the nursing home administration due to the needed training and education for GPs, other health care staff, and nursing home residents. Additionally, hand rubs must be adequately supplied in nursing homes and health care settings. Nursing and patient satisfaction should increase if the suggested change is implemented. By this, the transmission of infection will be low and will not be a threat to the compromised health of the nursing residents. Although there is a need for extra education, patient safety will increase because it will help stop the problems from becoming worse, such as sepsis and client death. Nursing safety will increase because there will be compliance with safety and standard precautions that will keep clients and themselves from different pathogens.

Application to Nursing

Multidrug-resistant organisms are a big problem that is increasing around the world. On top of MDROs, the COVID-19 pandemic has made preventative hygiene measures a much-needed necessity. Education and teaching by GPs and healthcare staff to the residents is beneficial. A research study on how to improve the enablement of nursing home residents and its impact on the prevention of HAI is needed.

Practice

The article examined in this paper reveals a lack of enablement of the residents to perform hand hygiene measures correctly (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). One of the factors of noncompliance is the limited availability of hand rub solution (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). The preferred nursing practice for this specific problem is to perform proper hand washing with soap and water following disinfection guidelines such as “5 Moments of Hand Hygiene” that is provided by World Health Organization (WHO) or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (“WHO”, n.d.).

Education

The nursing home resident’s knowledge of performing hand hygiene measures correctly suggests a lack of enablement. *Enablement* is defined as a process by which healthcare professionals assist clients in enhancing their health (Hammerschmidt, et al., 2022). Education and training can be a form of client enablement. The WHO recommends that patients and their families take training on the indications and use of hand hygiene measures to reduce the risk of acquiring MDROs (Hammerschmidt et al., 2022). This training will help lower the infection rate and contamination in the nursing home and maintain the resident’s health.

Research

The research suggests a need for more research on the enablement of nursing home residents regarding hand hygiene measures (Hammerschmidt et al., 2022). The priority in this field in healthcare is to find a way for the healthcare professional to establish teaching to their resident about hand hygiene. Further research on how residents' perceptions about nosocomial infection and hand hygiene can relate to more compliance.

Conclusion

Quality improvement is one of the necessary competencies that a nurse must practice. Ongoing training and education can positively impact infection prevention practices because “continuous improvement is the key to quality” (QSEN Institute, 2020). This competency requires nurses to gain skills, knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes (QSEN Institute, 2020). If client safety is to be improved, quality improvement and other nursing competencies must remain paramount to nurses and everyone involved in client care. Quality improvement is essential in improving practices that will help the client in achieving health goals without or with minimal challenges. It helps analyze the problem in performance and formulate recommendations and changes to yield increased positive patient outcomes such as low hospital admission rates, low infection rates, and increased nursing and healthcare knowledge that can be used in nursing practice. Hand hygiene is a straightforward yet effective way to prevent infection that can be obtained from contaminated surfaces. Compliance with this practice and correctly performing hand hygiene can improve the quality of care and health of an individual.

References

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