

Is 5 better than 1? Moving from auditing 1 to all 5 WHO hand hygiene moments

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1. Introduction

- Optimal hand hygiene is essential in preventing healthcare-associated infections.
- The organisation reports hand hygiene for “moment one” (before patient contact) of the WHO “my 5 moments for hand hygiene” on an electronic platform with weekly returns showing high levels of compliance (over 95%).
- In comparison, a systematic review of almost 100 hand hygiene studies found that overall compliance was 40%.
- A steering group was formed to implement a more transparent process that reflected our true position where we can identify failings and improve practice.

2. Methods

- As part of the wider hand hygiene strategy a pilot study was implemented in three clinical areas with an interventional approach to improve hand hygiene.
- Two of the clinical areas were the test areas, with the third area being the non-intervention control.
- The WHO “my 5 moments for hand hygiene” audit tool was used and included all five moments.
- The audit was undertaken by an infection control nurse, who gave immediate feedback when missed opportunities for hand hygiene were observed.
- A dashboard was sent to the clinical areas every week showing compliance broken down by the five staff groups (Figure 2 below).

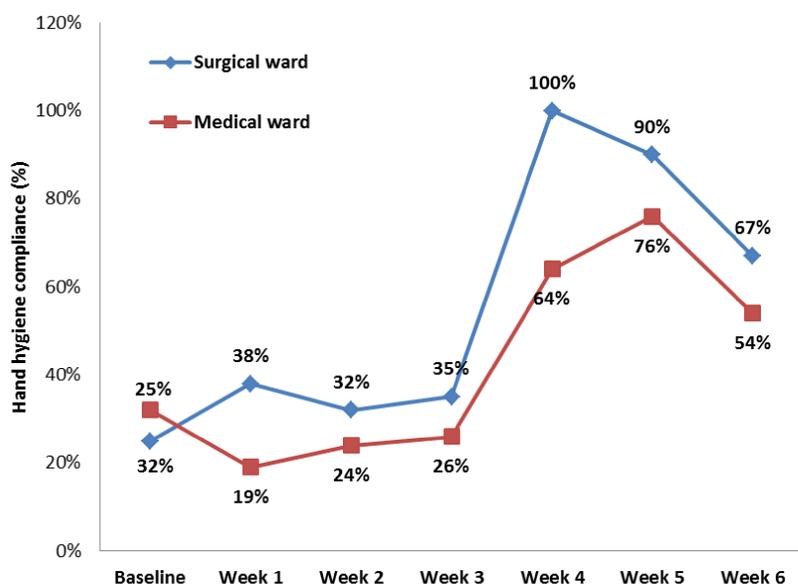


Figure 1: Hand hygiene compliance by week

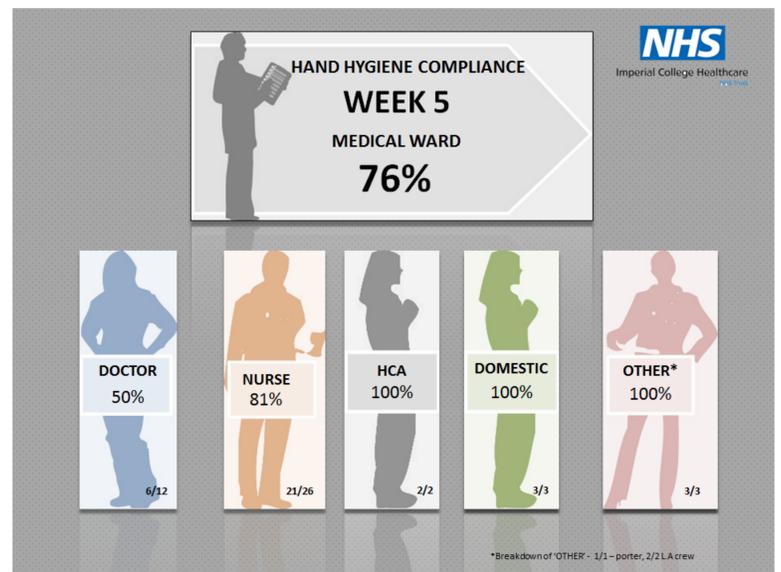


Figure 2: Dashboard feedback post auditing.

3. Results

- The pilot showed starting compliance for hand hygiene in the surgical ward as 32% (29/90) and 24% (22/90) for the medical ward. (Figure 1)
- Compliance in the intervention phase was significantly higher than during the baseline phase ($p < 0,001$ for both using Fisher's exact test).
- On the surgical ward the total compliance was 64% (113/176) and 49% (85/172) on the medical ward.
- Compliance did not change significantly on the non-intervention ward.

4. Discussion

- Low-cost interventions provided accurate, realistic information about hand hygiene compliance and led to improved compliance supporting our efforts to reduce infections
- Based on the findings of this pilot, the Trust has moved to auditing five moments across all clinical areas and plans to implement the immediate feedback mechanism.

References

- World Health Organisation (2009) WHO guidelines for hand hygiene in health care. World Health Organisation. Geneva, Switzerland.
- Erasmus et al. (2010) Systematic review of studies on compliance with hand hygiene guidelines in hospital care. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2010 Mar;31(3):283-94.