

Hand Hygiene Compliance Improvement Strategy 2020

Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore

by Infection Prevention and Control Team

Introduction & Background

Hand Hygiene is one of the most important measures to prevent Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Hand Hygiene is the cheapest and most effective method of preventing Healthcare Associated Infection.

The greatest risk for cross transmission is from staff (clinical and non clinical) who interact with patients/clients, or work in the clinical environment (e.g. Sterile Services, Laboratory, Laundry, Pharmacy, Technical Services)¹.

Evidence from the WHO suggests that multimodal approaches are required for long-term sustained change.

The elements of the World Health Organizations (WHO) multimodal Hand Hygiene Improvement Strategy are:

- System changes to enable Hand Hygiene to be performed readily.
- Staff education.
- Audit & feedback.
- Establishing an institutional safety climate with visible support from senior management such as reminders in the workplace and a culture of hand hygiene excellence in the institution.
- Ensure all staff receive regular updates to maximise their commitment to implementation in practice.

- Validated and standardized prevention strategies have been shown to reduce HCAI.
- At least 50% of HCAI could be prevented.
- Most solutions are simple and not resource demanding and can be implemented in developed, as well as in transitional and developing countries¹.

Initiatives at MRHT

- Hand Hygiene Champions Group.
- 4 new Hand Hygiene trainers
- Launch of RESIST campaign.
- RESIST signage/posters displayed throughout hospital, including patient information leaflets
- 60 additional Hand Hygiene training sessions facilitated during Q2/3 2020.

Your 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene



Aims & Objectives

Aim: Develop and promote a culture of best practice for Hand Hygiene in MRHT.

Objectives:

- Promote 5 moments of Hand Hygiene for all healthcare staff.
- Promote compliance with bare wrist policy.
- Act as a positive role model for staff.
- Explore novel approaches to improving and sustaining compliance with Hand Hygiene.
- Support staff in clinical areas in developing a culture of best practice for Hand Hygiene.

Hand Hygiene – How To

How to Handrub?

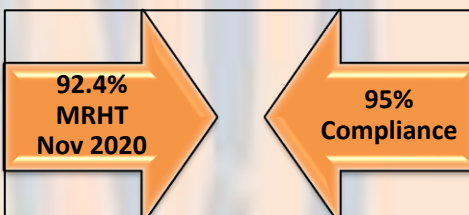
RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

⌚ Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds



Evaluation

- November 2020 saw > 95% compliance with in house Hand Hygiene, face to face education and training for clinical staff in MRHT.
- 92.4% compliance in National Hand Hygiene Audit November 2020.



Organizational Impact

Establishment of an institutional safety climate with visible support from senior management and a culture of Hand Hygiene excellence in the hospital.

Improving patient safety and quality is our first priority.

Challenges

Changing culture. Workers tend to underestimate the importance of compliance, and often overestimate their compliance with Hand Hygiene procedures.

Sustaining change.

Reinforcement of Hand Hygiene messages according to WHO multimodal framework.

Conclusion

This quality improvement process is ongoing and requires continuous commitment, staff engagement, teamwork and communication.

Role-modelling by senior staff of all disciplines is essential.

References

- 1) World Health Organization (WHO, 2009). WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care, first global patient safety challenge, clean care is safer care.
- 2) Boyce J.M. And Pittet D. (2002). Guidance for Hand Hygiene in Health Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force.