

## Improving Hand Hygiene Practices in the Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU)

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### Introduction and Background

It is well known that improving adherence of health care workers to hand hygiene decreases hospital acquired infections (1,2). AMAU, a newly developed unit, was under the required benchmark (90%) for hand hygiene adherence. So, our team planned to implement interventions of proven efficiency (3, 4) to improve hand hygiene practices in the unit.

### Aim

Improving hand hygiene practices of AMAU Staff (physicians and nurses ) from a baseline of 23% to 45% over a period of 6 weeks from mid-November to the end of December 2015, to reduce hospital acquired infections.

### Methods

- Assessment was done for the microsystem (AMAU) by using the 5Ps and a survey was conducted among the AMAU staff to assess barriers to hand hygiene compliance (week 0 - 1).

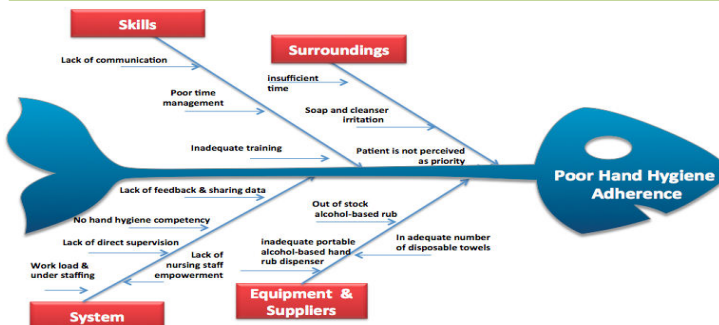
#### Outcome measure:

- Percentage of AMAU staff performing hand hygiene.

#### Data Collection:

- Data were collected, by secret shoppers, at baseline then post each intervention.

### Cause & Effect Diagram

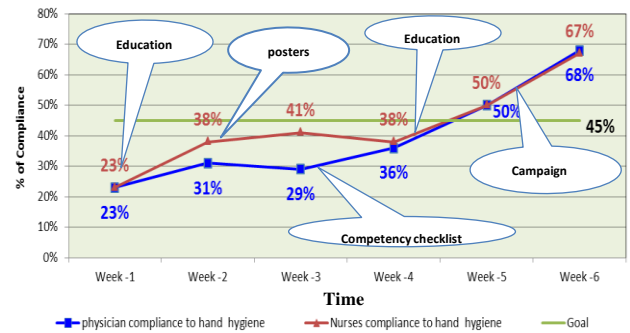


### Interventions

- Verification of the available data about hand hygiene compliance.
- Providing educational sessions to improve the knowledge of proper hand hygiene practices.
- Display of hand hygiene reminding posters on each alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Ensure the availability of alcohol-based rub and paper towels.
- Implementation of hand hygiene checklist/competency to have workers demonstrate hand hygiene knowledge and ensure that competency is regularly validated.
- Hand hygiene campaign to raise the staff awareness.
- Monitoring of compliance (over interventions weeks 1 – 6).

### Results

#### AMAU-Hand Hygiene Compliance



### Conclusions

- There was a significant increase in the adherence to hand hygiene practices and we were able to exceed the project aim after 6 weeks.
- The compliance of both physicians and nurses improved from a baseline of 23%, by 45% for physicians to reach 68%, and by 44% for nurses to reach 67%.

### Lesson Learned

- With simple interventions improvement of hand hygiene practices can be achieved.
- Coordination of efforts between various teams (physicians, nurses, infection control) helped to achieve more than our target.
- With more reinforcement of these evidence based interventions the WHO bench mark for hand hygiene compliance (90%) can be achieved.

### References

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