

ORAL PRESENTATION

Open Access

24 month outcomes from the Australian National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI)

P Russo¹, M Cruickshank², ML Grayson^{1*}

From International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC 2011)
Geneva, Switzerland. 29 June – 2 July 2011

Introduction / objectives

The NHHI was implemented in January 2009 to establish a standardized hand hygiene (HH) culture-change program, including the increased use of alcohol-based handrub (ABHR), throughout all Australian hospitals.

Methods

A multi-modal culture-change program based on the World Health Organization “5 Moments” program was implemented in all States/Territories, including development of Australian HH guidelines, HHA and State-based healthcare worker (HCW) training program, data collection and analysis tools. Training to standardize HH compliance (HHC) auditing ($\geq 90\%$ internal/external validity) was conducted nationally and a 4 monthly data submission schedule established. Electronic and online data submission capability enhanced efficiency and participation. Outcomes 24 months after NHHI commencement were assessed.

Results

After 24 months, 521 healthcare facilities from all States/Territories submitted HH compliance data, representing approximately 85% and 50% of acute public and private hospital beds, respectively. The overall national (public/private) HHC rate was 68.3% (95%CI: 68.1-68.5%), with State-based rates (public hospitals) of 60.8% >72.6%. National HHC by Moment were: M1: 63.1%, M2: 68.4%, M3: 79.1%, M4: 76.0%, M5: 60.0%, suggesting that education needs to be focused on improvements in HH prior to patient contact, especially before performing procedures (M2). Overall HHC among public hospital medical staff was 53.4% (95%CI: 52.8% >53.9%).

Conclusion

The NHHI has been associated with a rapid national culture-change among Australian HCWs resulting in significantly improved HHC and a shift to greater use of ABHR. Analysis of NHHI impact on nosocomial disease rates is underway and further improvements in HHC can be expected.

Disclosure of interest

None declared.

Author details

¹Hand Hygiene Australia, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia. ²Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Sydney, Australia.

Published: 29 June 2011

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-5-S6-O64

Cite this article as: Russo et al.: 24 month outcomes from the Australian National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI). *BMC Proceedings* 2011 5(Suppl 6):O64.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



¹Hand Hygiene Australia, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article