

**P0639**

**Paper Poster Session**

**Update on hand hygiene**

**Effect of a multifaceted intervention on hand hygiene compliance at the internal medicine wards and ICU of a tertiary teaching hospital**

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**Background:** While hand hygiene is recognised as the cornerstone for reducing risk for healthcare-associated infections, compliance in our institution remains low- with previously identified barriers including poor access to hand hygiene products, lack of reminders, and poor knowledge on indications. The bulk of hand hygiene opportunities in our setting involve medical students, residents and nurses, and are thus the target population in our present study.

**Material/methods:** The study was conducted at the medicine wards and ICU of a tertiary teaching hospital using a quasi-experimental design. A group composed of medical students, residents and nurses was exposed to interventions addressing the previously identified barriers. Alcohol-based handrub was provided at each bedside, visual reminders were put in place at critical locations, and commonly missed hand hygiene opportunities were reinforced to the group at the start of the study. Hand hygiene compliance rate was covertly evaluated by direct observation two weeks after the intervention and subsequently compared against that of an unexposed group.

**Results:** 664 and 727 hand hygiene opportunities were observed in the unexposed and exposed groups, respectively. The exposed group had a higher compliance rate compared to the unexposed group (32.60% vs. 16.26%,  $p < 0.05$ ), which by subset analysis was consistent for the different healthcare worker designations and locations evaluated. Nurses had the highest compliance rate in both the unexposed (29.63%) and exposed (54.58%) groups.

**Conclusions:** The higher compliance rate in the group exposed to the interventions suggests its efficacy in improving hand hygiene compliance in this setting. Hand hygiene opportunities identified to be most frequently missed in this observation can guide future intervention efforts in our institution.