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Paper Poster Session

Update on hand hygiene

Hand hygiene challenge: when team work really matters

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Background: Hand hygiene (HH) is the most effective measure to prevent pathogen transmission and health-care associated infections. However compliance of health-care workers with best practices is usually low and successful promotion of HH results from implementation of multiple strategies. Hospital Moinhos de Vento is a 380 bed hospital in south Brazil, with 17 operating rooms, 69 intensive care beds (31 adult, 11 pediatric and 27 neonatal) and emergency and outpatient care. Even after 8 years of a established HH program with a good compliance, we have struggle to maintain sustained levels through time in critical areas in our institution. Besides, our program of HH promotion didn't involve most assistencial areas in the hospital.

Material/methods: : In a mutual effort between the infection control service and hospital administration we established the "Hand Hygiene Team": 1 nurse and 3 trainees were hired to proceed educational campaigns, monitor compliance and give feedback "on time, on place" to hospital staff. In additional, HH compliance results were included in a financial bonus called ""ThenChallenge Program": a compilation of institucional goals to be achieved every year. For 2015, 15% of this bonus will result from HH compliance. The program started in 1st July 2015. *HH Team* works in all shifts, 7 days a week in 19 different areas of our institution. In average we conduct 3000 HH observations per month, in all 5 moments recommended by WHO. Every 5th day of the month, we have the "D day"for HH, when entertaining activities are schedule to promote HH. Results are informed every fifteen days for all units. Our goal is to achieve 88% HH compliance after 6 months of intervention (July to December) in all areas of patient care. We will also observe the association of HH compliance and the incidence of resistant pathogens and health-care associated infections (*catheter-associated blood stream infections*)

Results: After 3 months of project's activities, compared to the first half of 2015, HH compliance was 86.3% vs 82.2% (Adult Intensive Care Center); 92.6% vs 77.9% (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit); 74.6% vs 42.1% (Emergency room). In the sum of all areas assessed, the percentage was 86.7% vs 85.2%. Preliminary data also shown reduction in the infection rate associated with device (CVC) and incidence of institutional multidrug-resistant organisms

Conclusions: Promotion of hand hygiene maybe long life successful with an educational approach delivered by a very focused and specialized team, combined to an active hospital administration support and intervention. The idea that hand hygiene is not an option, but mandatory, creates a ambience for the growing of the patient safety culture. The positive results in health-care associated infections and multi-drug resistant pathogens seems to be a natural outcome.