

Hand hygiene challenge: when team work really matters

Roberta Marco, MD⁽²⁾; Ágatha de Ávila Boff⁽²⁾; Denusa Wiltgen, PhD, MD⁽¹⁾.
Infection Control Service / Associação Hospitalar Moinhos de Vento / Porto Alegre / Brazil

INTRODUCTION

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. After 8 years of an established HH program, in July 2015, Hospital Moinhos de Vento implemented a new strategy, unifying educational campaigns with a financial bonus, called “Programa Desafio” (Challenge Program).

OBJECTIVES

To improve adherence to hand hygiene and observe association with the incidence of resistant pathogens and health-care associated infections (*catheter-associated blood stream infections*).

MATERIALS & METHODS

Before and after study (*ongoing*), consisting on the evaluation of *an institutional strategy to improve hand hygiene*

Intervention:

- Establishment of the “*Hand Hygiene Team*”: 1 nurse and 3 *trainees* to proceed with educational campaigns, monitor compliance and give feedback “*on time, on place*” to hospital staff;
- “*Programa Desafio*” (*Challenge Program*) - a compilation of institutional goals that when achieved, a financial bonus is granted to the staff. In 2015, 15% of this bonus will result on hand hygiene compliance;
- Final data will be analyzed after 6 months of intervention (July to December)
- Goal: 88% compliance (JHI benchmark) in all areas.
- Sample: 3000 hand hygiene opportunities per month among 19 different areas.

RESULTS

The program started on 1st July 2015. HH compliance increased after the implementation of this project, compared with the first half of the year. Preliminary data also shown reduction in the infection rate associated with device (CVC) and incidence of institutional multidrug-resistant organisms.

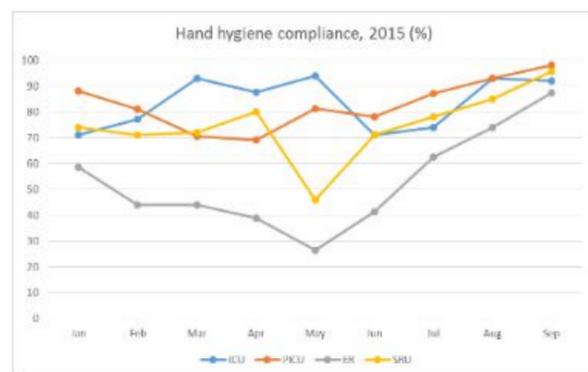


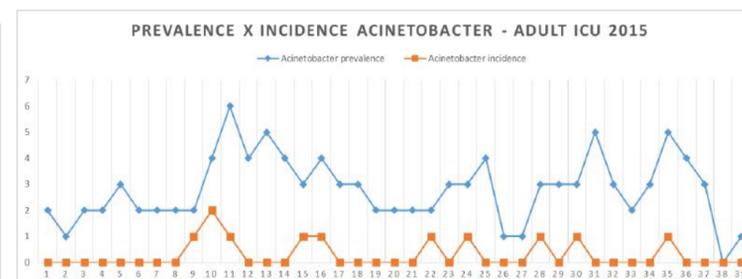
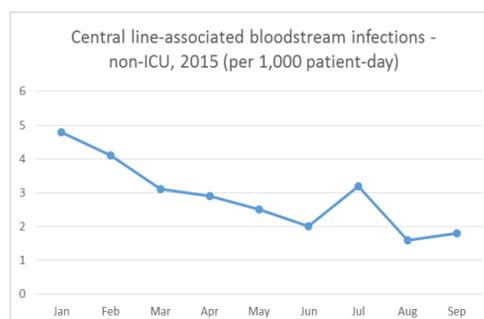
Table 1 - Compliance of HH before and after program implementation.

	Before program implementation (Jan – Jun/2015)	After program implementation (Jul – Sept/2015)
Adult ICU	82,20%	86,30%
PICU	77,90%	92,60%
ER	42,10%	74,60%
SFU	69%	86,20%

Data shown as monthly mean for the described period.



Mean Jan-Jun 85,2%,
mean Jul-Sep 86,7%.



In the plot is highlighted the start of the project (week 26).



Character on “D” Day:

- “Wonder Alcohol and “Captain Alcohol””
- Anita Garibaldi and her horse for HH
- Florence Nightingale and Ignaz Semmelweis.

CONCLUSION

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 an ambience for enhancing patient safety culture. The positive results in health-care associated infections and multi-drug resistant pathogens seems to be a natural outcome.