

Hand hygiene compliance in primary care wards in Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital District in Finland (years 2004-2005 and 2017)

Tuula Keränen, RN., M.Sc.(Health Care), ICN, Reija Leiviskä, RN., Master of Health Care, ICN, Sirpa Ukkola, RN., M.Sc.(Health Care), ICN, Helena Ojanperä, RN, M.Sc.(Health Care), CNS, ICN, Teija Puhto, M.D, Chief of department, Department of Infection Control, Oulu University Hospital

Introduction

Hand hygiene (HH) is one of the most important interventions to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAI). Previous studies show that easy availability of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) adds compliance. Still little is known about HH compliance in primary care wards (PCWs).

Aims

To compare the availability and use of alcohol-based hand rub in 2004-2006 and 2017 in primary care wards of Northern Ostrobothnia Hospital District in Finland.

Methods

Infection control team performed a survey in 2004-2006 (survey I) and 2017 (survey II). Studies were performed during one day using data collection forms. Head of PCWs filled a pre-questionnaire before the actual visits

Results

45 PCWs (the number of beds 10-52, median 29) (I) and 33 PCWs (the number of beds 15-44, median 25) (II) were surveyed. 40% (I) and 12% (II) of wards had no ABHRs at the end of beds. Yearly ABHR consumption was registered in 80% (I) and 82% (II) of wards. 58% of wards gave feedback on HH to personnel in 2017.

The mean consumption of ABHR was 24 ml/patient/day (I) and 28 ml/patient/day (II), $p=0.07$. The head of PCWs reported that HH was instructed to 78% (I) and 79% (II) of new employees. Based on observation, HH was instructed to 61% of new employees in 2017.

Conclusions

Although availability of ABHR has improved, the consumption remained low. This can be explained by the fact that personnel was rarely instructed and given feedback. Only availability of ABHR is not enough but guidance is also essential.

