

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE REVIEW



Literature Review

Writing Service

Hand Hygiene Compliance on Hospital-acquired Infections in an ICU

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Hand Hygiene Compliance on Hospital-acquired Infections in an ICU

Hand washing and hygiene constitute the practice of upholding individual and surrounding cleanliness to prevent the spread of illnesses and diseases. In the hospital ICU context, hand washing involves compliance with hygienic procedures involving cleaning the hands with water and disinfectants to combat the spread of pathogens and cleanse any harmful chemicals that could cause harm (Sharma & Bhatt, 2018). Hand hygiene is an effective measure of reducing the spark of incidences associated with infections in healthcare. Despite the procedures regarding hand cleaning in place, studies have reported a low compliance rate of 40% with the hand hygiene protocols among healthcare workers. Most healthcare workers have failed to fully comply with the evidence-based concept known as the "My five moments for hand hygiene" established by the World Health Organization. The aspects incorporated under this concept called for hand hygiene observation before attending to a patient, before handling any septic and clean procedures, and after exposure to body fluids.

Studies have established how nurses and nursing managers are highly aware of effective hand hygiene procedures and standards. Hammerschmid and Manser (2019) conducted a mixed-method study involving surveying and interviewing nurses in a German nursing home. The study found that most nursing professionals were aware of effective procedures with the help of the set standards and equipment available in the home (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). However, their compliance with the standards and procedures depended entirely upon other factors in the work setting, including availability and role modeling. A section of the nursing managers in the home didn't appreciate their role in setting an example of compliance with effective hand hygiene procedures (Hammerschmidt & Manser, 2019). Hence, the researchers concluded that nursing managers need to be aware of their impact and roles in modeling behavior toward compliance with the set procedures and effectively embrace this responsibility.

In exploring knowledge, attitudes, and compliance behavior, it is critical to understand and consider the several factors that influence hand hygiene compliance on hospital-acquired infections in the hospital and ICU contexts. Studies show that factors include the type of work unit, socio-demographic characteristics, and hand hygiene facilities' availability. Reports by the World Health Organization have that the procedures in the ICUs and emergency

departments could help predict poor compliance with hand hygiene protocols (Kamau, 2018). As a result, the reports have demonstrated higher compliance rates in the ICU and pediatric units than in surgical and medical units.

Under socio-demographic factors, the World Health Organization established a criterion that suggests that a professional category is likely to predict compliance with hand hygiene procedures. While some studies indicate that nurses are more likely to understand and comply with the guidelines, others suggest that doctors usually avoid these procedures in the hospital (Kamau, 2018). Consequent studies have equally established that since doctors hold highly influential positions in hospitals, their hygienic attitudes and practices are likely to influence other professionals in the same context.

Facilities are critical factors in hand hygiene in various health organizations. Studies investigating why some healthcare professionals fail to comply with hygienic procedures and protocols like hand washing reveal disconcerting results. Most of these studies show how a lack of adequately written guidelines, inadequate hygiene agents, and poor hygiene culture could influence non-adherence to handwashing amongst professionals in various units in health care organizations, including the ICU.

References

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