

Improving Hand Hygiene in the Emergency Department with Environmental Interventions

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Improving Hand Hygiene in the Emergency Department with Environmental Interventions

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Background

- Emergency departments experience high traffic, functioning as excellent vectors for the spread of nosocomial infections.
- Even with comprehensive handwashing campaigns in place, hand hygiene in the Muhlenberg ED occurs only 77% (December 2017) of the time.
- Handwashing is a priority quality measure for The Joint Commission.

Evidence

- According to Arntz et al, a multimodal approach to staff education more than doubled staff adherence, but brought adherence only to roughly 50%.
- Dorsey et al found that hand hygiene did not improve significantly with staff education and reinforcement.
- According to Schuur et al, one approach that included increased access to hand sanitizing stations increased hand hygiene adherence to 91% from 36%.

PICO Question

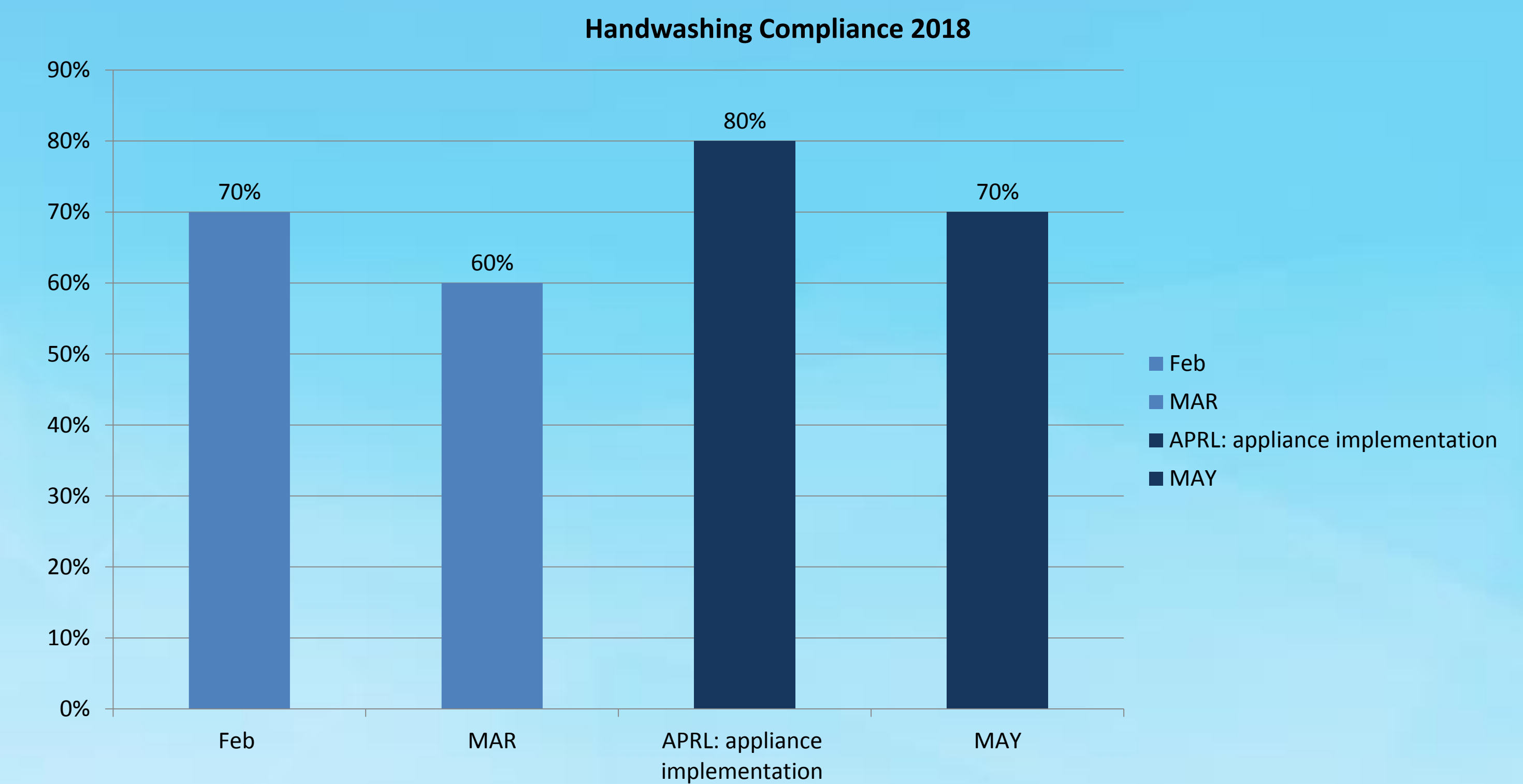
In the LVHN-M emergency department, will increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations, compared to no intervention, have a significant impact on hand hygiene compliance among staff?

Population: LVHN-M Emergency Department Staff. Intervention: increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations. Compared to: no interventions. Outcome: increase in hand hygiene compliance.

Process and Implementation

- Collaborate with engineering to create an appliance to increase availability and accessibility of hand hygiene supplies. Appliance will attach hand sanitizer bottles to the computers/workstations-on-wheels (WOWs).
- Announce availability of new appliance via morning safety huddles and e-mail.
- Using “secret shopper” data collected by ED-M administration, ascertain whether the proposed intervention correlates with an increase in hand hygiene compliance among all staff in the emergency department.
- Data collected in February and March 2018 indicate hand hygiene prior to environmental modification. Hand sanitizer appliance installed in April with post data collected in April and May.

Outcomes



Compliance increased in April when the Appliance was implemented, but dipped back down in May.

More data needs to be collected

Next Steps

- Spread the message, seek staff input and collaboration (huddles).
- Continue to collect data.
- Seek new opportunities for environmental change.

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