Can Hand Washing Champions Increase Hand Hygiene Compliance (HHC)?

Kadie Bechtel BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Kadie.Bechtel@lvhn.org*

Jon Carlos Gonzalez BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, JonCarlos_C.Gonzalez@lvhn.org*

Megan Toro RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Megan.Toro@lvhn.org*

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Kadie Bechtel, Jon Carlos González, Megan Toro
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

**Background**

Within the past year poor hand hygiene compliance (HHC) has been noted among nursing staff on 5K-MED SURG. In March 2018 the results of HHC from the LVHN secret shopper program was 60%. HHC is a Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG.07.01.01) and should be adhered to by 100% of Nursing staff.

“Clean hands are the single most important factor in preventing the spread of pathogens and antibiotic resistance in healthcare settings.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016)

**Evidence**

- “Role models help drive and promote hand hygiene compliance” (Johnson, Kaehler, Siska, Lecy, & O’neil, 2011)
- “Where there was a supportive culture, compliance with hand hygiene guidelines was improved” (Smiddy, M. P., Connell, R. O., & Creedon, S. A. (2015)
- “Psychological frameworks of behaviour change demonstrate significant potential for predicting hand hygiene behavior and informing interventions to improve hand hygiene compliance” (Srigley, et al., 2015)
  - Coaching and positive reinforcement are included as interventions of psychological frameworks of behavior change.

**Results**

- After our HHCH program finished in April, the Secret Shopper program data showed HHC increase to 90% in May on 5K.
- These results show a positive correlation between direct observation, coaching and positive reinforcement, and improved hand hygiene compliance.

**Implementation**

1. Gather data on nursing staff beliefs and barriers to hand hygiene compliance.

2. Select individuals in Nursing staff to be a “Hand Hygiene Champion” (HHCH) for the shift.
   1. What is a HHCH? – Observes Nursing staff entering/leaving patient rooms, provides positive reinforcement (chocolate) for compliance, and friendly coaching for noncompliance.
   2. HHCH records observations and staff reactions to interventions on provided data observation chart.

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**REFERENCES**


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