

Increasing Handwashing Compliance in Oriented, Inpatient Adults

Daritza Cabrera Estevez BSN, RN

Rebecca Hartman BSN, RN

Celine Mahadeo BSN, RN

Stephen Schmitz BSN, RN

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Increasing Handwashing Compliance in Oriented, Inpatient Adults

Daritza Cabrera Estevez, BSN, RN, Rebecca Hartman BSN, RN, Celine Mahadeo BSN, RN, , Stephen Schmitz BSN, RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

BACKGROUND

- Hand hygiene is known to reduce infection risks (Busby et al., 2015; Gould et al., 2017; Haverstick et al., 2017)
- Nurse residents observed hand sanitizer often located out of sight, or out of arm's reach, of patients.
- A majority of oriented, inpatient adults do not have handwashing education prior to being admitted to the hospital. (Srigley et al., 2020)
- Nurse residents observed oriented, inpatient adults neglecting hand hygiene, including prior to eating and after voiding.

PICO

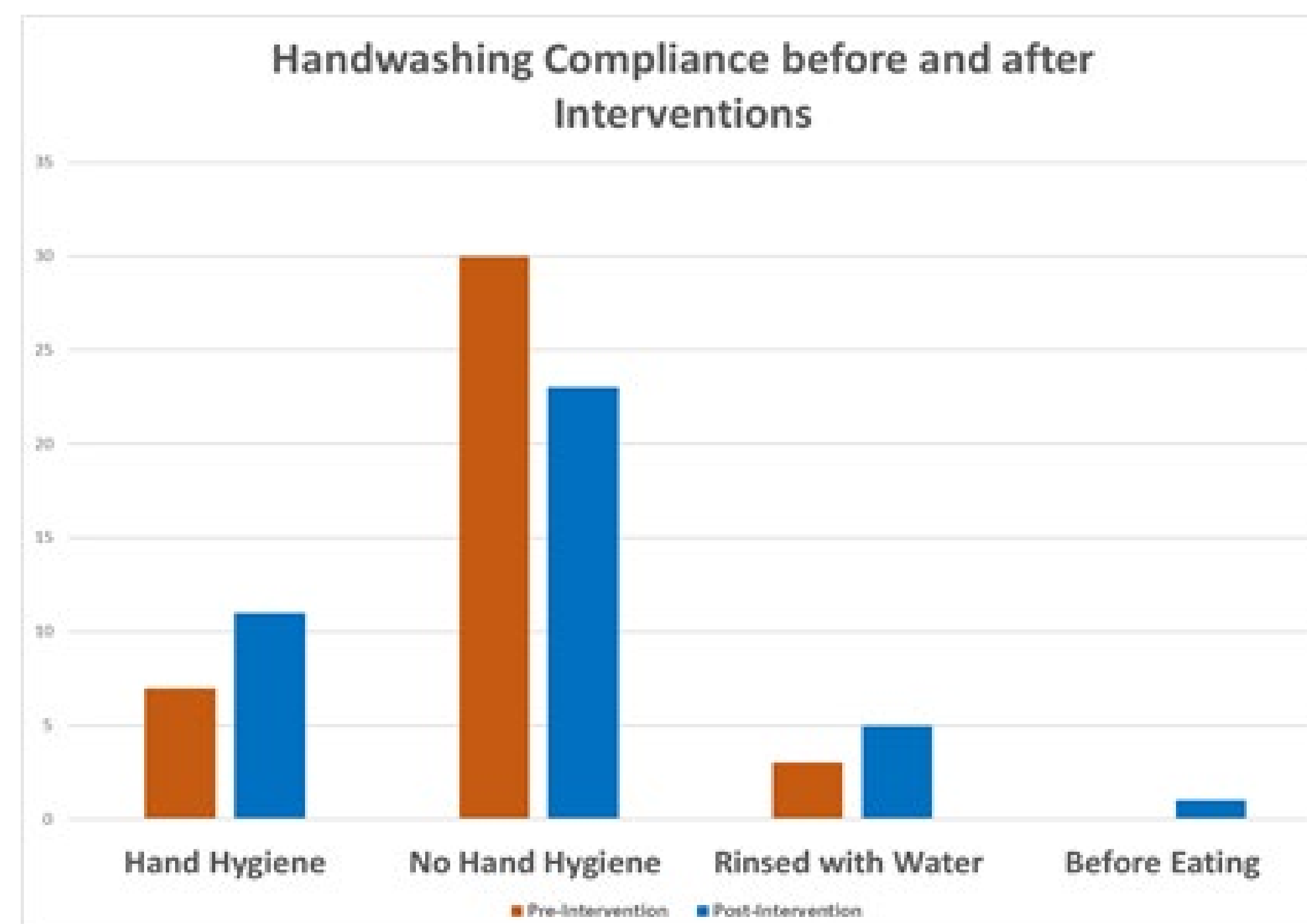
- **P** Oriented, inpatient adults
- **I** Supplying accessible (arm's reach) hand sanitizer plus hand hygiene education
- **C** Current hand hygiene practice
- **O** Compliance with hand hygiene behaviors

EVIDENCE

- Patients are more likely to engage in hand hygiene behaviors if they are witnessed by healthcare staff. (Gould et al., 2017)
- At least ½ of all surveyed patients were not educated on initiating and maintaining hand hygiene behaviors and did not engage in hand hygiene. (Srigley et al., 2020)
- Proper hand hygiene education with supplies and teach-back can increase hand hygiene compliance significantly. (Gould et al., 2017; Srigley et al., 2020)
- Patients are more likely to engage in hand hygiene behaviors if the appropriate hand hygiene supplies are available. (Gould et al., 2017; Haverstick et al., 2017)

OUTCOMES

- Before hand hygiene education provided and supplies readily available, 17.5% of patients were observed performing hand hygiene. Meanwhile, 75% of patients were observed performing no hand hygiene.



- After interventions, there was a 10% INCREASE in hand hygiene performed, with a 17.5% DECREASE in no hand hygiene.
- There was also a slight INCREASE in patients who performed hand hygiene before eating and rinsed hands with water.
- Based on the data collected, inpatient oriented adults were seen to perform hand hygiene more often after being educated on its importance.

IMPLEMENTATION

- At the start of shift, 40 oriented, inpatient adults were provided with hand sanitizer in plain view and within arm's reach of the patient. Patients were provided no additional education regarding hand hygiene.
- The hand hygiene behavior of each patient (using sanitizer, washing with soap and water, rinsing with water only, or no action) was observed once during that shift, prior to the patient eating or after voiding. Results were recorded.
- Next, at the start of shift, 40 oriented, inpatient adults were provided with hand sanitizer in plain view and within arm's reach and were educated on the importance of performing hand hygiene before eating and after voiding.
- The hand hygiene behavior of each patient was observed once during that shift, prior to a patient eating or after voiding. Results were recorded.

NEXT STEPS

- Encourage unit staff to provide patient education on the importance of handwashing behaviors.
- Create a routine for the patient to associate handwashing to events such as prior to eating or after using the bathroom.

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