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Effectiveness of a Hospital-Wide Programme to Improve Compliance with Hand Hygiene, a Case of Kitale County Hospital

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Introduction: Hand hygiene prevents cross-infection in hospitals, but health-care workers adherence to guidelines is poor. Easy, timely access to both hand hygiene and skin protection is necessary for satisfactory hand hygiene behaviour. Infection prevention and control supplies contribute to sustained improvement in compliance and associated decreased infection rates.

Method: We monitored the overall compliance with hand hygiene during routine patient care and during implementation of a hand-hygiene campaign from December 2018 to December 2019. Secondary outcome measures were nosocomial infection rates.

Design: Institution-based cross-sectional study design was used to assess compliance to hand hygiene among 350 health professionals working in Kitale county hospital every month. Structured self-administered pretested questionnaires were used. The data obtained were analyzed using SPSS version 23 where tables and charts were generated. Descriptive statistics were performed to obtain mean, median and standard deviation of compliance.

Findings: We observed more than 38 09 opportunities for hand hygiene. Compliance improved progressively from 30% in 2018 to 58 % mid 2019 ($p<0.001$) but declined to 9% in late 2019. This result was unchanged after adjustment for known risk factors of poor compliance. During the same period, overall nosocomial infection rate increased (prevalence of 6% in 2018 to 8 % in early 2020; $p=0.04$) the consumption of alcohol-based hand rub solution increased from 3.5 to 15.4 L per 100 health care worker due to high awareness campaigns, training and retraining of health workers.

Conclusion: Based on the findings, it's evident that, adequate IPC supplies directly affects compliance and patient outcome.

Biography:

Faith Muthoni Thiong'o has undertaken registered nursing/ midwife/ bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is licensed by the nursing council of Kenya and currently working at Kitale county hospital as the Infection prevention focal person. Previously she has worked with Aga Khan Hospital Nairobi and The Nairobi Hospital. She has 16 years working experience.