A study of the Essential Situations of Hand Hygiene Compliance in Neonatal Units in Public and Private Hospitals

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Abstract

Introduction: Hand hygiene has been recognized as the main factor in controlling and reducing hospital infections. However, little attention has been paid to the observance of hands washing guidelines. The purpose of this study is to investigate the essential situations that require hand hygiene compliance in neonates units in public and private hospitals.

Materials and Methods: In this study, the healthcare workers dealing with patients were monitored secretly and the hand hygiene control checklist for five situations was completed for them. Data collected from public and private hospitals were analyzed using SPSS software.

Results: 456 situations in the public hospital and 164 situations in the private hospital were monitored. 155 (25%) situations were before any contact with patients, in which more than 47.1% of nurses used alcohol. 138 (22.3%) situations were before the adoption of any aseptic action in which more than 34.8% of the subjects used alcohol solution. 124 (20%) situation were after contact with patients, where more than 63.7% of subjects used soap and water. 112 (18.1%) situations were after contact with patients, in which more than 42% of subjects used an alcoholic solution, and 91 (14.7%) situations were after environmental contact where more than 40.7% of subjects did not employ any necessary actions.

In all emergency situations, there was a significant difference between the public and private hospitals in terms of hand hygiene compliance (p = 0.0001). However, there was no significant difference between the two hospitals after contact with body fluids. (p = 0.199)

Conclusion: Despite the importance of hand hygiene in controlling and reducing infection, this issue has not received adequate attention. Therefore, more in-depth interventions and supervisions on staff performance are required.