Hand hygiene compliance among healthcare workers in an emergency ward in Tehran

Arash Seifi 1, Esmail Mohammadnejad2*, Paratoo Ariamloo3, Azam Ghaian3, Sima Dolatsh 3

1 Department of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran
2 Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran.
3 Department of Nursing, Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Hand Hygiene (HH) is a cost-effective method in preventing infection transmission. Research findings show that HH compliance has not been satisfactory in Health Care Workers (HCWs). The prevalence of infection due to inappropriate HH will increase morbidity, mortality and costs. This study aimed at assessing HH compliance among HCWs in a emergency ward in Tehran.

Materials and Methods: This was a cross-sectional observational study using direct observation technique, during One year (Oct 2015- Oct 2016) in emergency in a selected general hospital in Tehran. During this analysis, 1735 HH opportunities were observed. HH compliance was tested for all 5 moments as per WHO guidelines.

Results: Overall compliance according to WHO Guidelines was 10.2%. Nurses had an adherence rate of 13.1%; nurse assistant adherence was 10.4%. HH compliance with the WHO moments was 3.6% before touching a patient, 6.3 before clean/aseptic procedures, 62.8% after body fluid exposure/risk, 33.4 after touching a patient and 52.1% after touching patient surroundings. Glove use was more common in 68% of the opportunities.

Conclusion: The observance of HH is still low in emergency ward. Educational programs, assessment and monitoring, encouragement and punishment system recommended to be improved HH in emergency wards.