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NURSES COMPLIANCE WITH HAND HYGIENE PRACTICE AND KNOWLEDGE IN A HOSPITAL

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Background:

Hospital-acquired infection is a major problem in most intensive care units. Hand hygiene has been considered as the most important measure in preventing hospital-acquired infection. The objective of this study was to assess nurses' compliance to hand hygiene practice and knowledge in a hospital.

Materials and methods:

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in the intensive care units of a hospital in Kuala Lumpur. A total of 84 registered nurses from the intensive care unit were recruited in this study. A self-administered questionnaire was employed to measure knowledge and compliance about hand hygiene. A *Five Moments Hand Hygiene* was used and it was adopted from WHO Guidelines (Annex 34) and observation on 7 steps of hand washing techniques.

Results:

The findings reported that the total means and standard deviation of knowledge (60.65 ± 4.213) and compliance (84.65 ± 7.024) were high among the respondents. The findings indicated significant differences between the respondents' years of service with knowledge and compliance ($F=3.456$, $p<0.05$). The results reported significant differences between respondents' with post basic course with compliance to hand hygiene ($t=3.439$, $p<0.05$). The five moment's observation guidelines showed reasonable compliance after patient contact but unsatisfactory result after contact with patient surroundings. By observation, the seven steps of compliance to hand hygiene reported 70 respondents (83.3%) did not perform it correctly and only 14 respondents (16.7%) had the steps correct.

Conclusion:

Nurses' compliance to hand hygiene practice and knowledge was good. However, the findings revealed that the five moments observation guidelines were unsatisfactory. Hawthorne effects could be the aggravating factor. This study implied that education and reinforcement of hand hygiene among hospital care providers and nurses are needed constantly.

Keywords:

hand, hygiene, compliance, practice, knowledge, nurse