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Vila Central Hospital baseline data on hand hygiene from June to July 2022

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Abstract

Background: Appropriate Hand Hygiene (HH) is a key measure to stop the transmission of Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI). Studies have shown that, HH practices by healthcare workers can significantly reduce HAI. Vila Central Hospital (VCH) implemented a WHO approved “5 moments for hand hygiene” model to improve hand hygiene in the hospital.

Methods: A baseline audit was conducted to assess compliance rates for each of the five hand hygiene moments included in the model. The hand hygiene audit was conducted in three wards in VCH: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Surgical, and Medical, between June and July 2022. Six IPC personnel were trained as Gold Standard Auditors'. They used a hand hygiene audit tool adapted by Pacific Community (SPC) from Hand Hygiene Australia to assess correct and missed moments of hand hygiene that were performed by healthcare workers. This tool identified five key hand hygiene moments in patient treatment – before touching the patient, before cleaning and aseptic procedures, after body fluid exposure, after touching a patient and after touching patient surroundings.

Results: Across the three wards a total of 595 hand hygiene moments were observed. Compliance rates were 34%, 8% and 26% in the NICU, surgical and medical wards, respectively. For each of the five key moments, compliance rates were 17% (moment 1), 30% (moment 2), 32% (moment 3), 22% (moment 4) and 11% (moment 5), respectively.

Discussion: These data suggested that hand hygiene compliance was sub-optimal. This was evident across all wards observed. To further enhance hand hygiene at VCH, a multimodal hand hygiene strategy should be implemented that includes education, interventions, ongoing auditing, and feedback.