

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Field evaluation (FE) of the World Health Organization (WHO) interim guidelines (IG) on infection prevention and control (IPC) of epidemic and pandemic-prone acute respiratory diseases (ARD) in health care

J Conly\*, R Thakur, S Eremin, C Pessoa Silva

From International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control (ICPIC 2011)  
Geneva, Switzerland. 29 June – 2 July 2011

## Introduction / objectives

A FE was designed with the objective of assessing the feasibility and applicability of the IG and the use of implementation tools in healthcare facilities (HCFs) over an initial period of 6-9 months and to apply lessons learnt to improve further versions of the IG.

## Methods

Definitions for feasibility and applicability were based on the AGREE instrument. The FE design was a parallel, two-arm before-after descriptive study in 2 convenience samples, Principal sites, invited by the 6 WHO Regional Offices and voluntary complementary sites of selected HCFs, conducted over 4 phases. A suite of tools to assist implementation, assessment, training, education and feedback were provided. Returned feedback forms were entered into Excel (Microsoft Corporation 2003) and descriptive epidemiologic analyses were conducted.

## Results

A total of 13 sites from 7 countries (4 WHO Regions) participated. The results suggested that the sites were well prepared with respect to having IPC protocols for ARDs (100%) and 92.3% sites had policies or IPC guidelines for HCF epidemic /pandemic planning available at the local and/or national level. For the surveyed HCFs, the follow-up FE revealed an overall increase ( $p=0.01$ ) to 86.8% vs the pre-survey results of 71.9%, with 10/ 15

recommendations implemented 2° to the IG ( $p=NS$ ). For the surveyed ICPs, the follow-up FE revealed an overall increase ( $p<0.0001$ ) to 85.9% of 72.2%, with 12/ 32 implemented 2° to the IG ( $p=NS$ ).

## Conclusion

Although the implemented changes were not significantly attributed to be as a direct result of the IG, there was an overall significant uptake of the IG recommendations and it remains possible that the changes noted were indirectly influenced by IG.

## Disclosure of interest

None declared.

Published: 29 June 2011

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-5-S6-P280

**Cite this article as:** Conly et al.: Field evaluation (FE) of the World Health Organization (WHO) interim guidelines (IG) on infection prevention and control (IPC) of epidemic and pandemic-prone acute respiratory diseases (ARD) in health care. *BMC Proceedings* 2011 5(Suppl 6):P280.