

ORAL PRESENTATION

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# Improvement in hand hygiene compliance. The impact of a regional strategy

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## Introduction / objectives

Health-care workers (HCWs) adherence to hand hygiene (HH) guidelines is usually low. According to WHO recommendations, the key strategy components to improve the compliance is evaluation and feed-back. In this study we monitored HH compliance of HCWs by direct observation in Madrid and to assess the impact of an interventional strategy.

## Methods

We observed 33 Madrid's Public Hospitals (more than 40.000 Health care workers) before and after the implementation of a regional intervention following WHO multimodal HH improvement strategy. It included different interventions but was specially focused in an online education tool with a play learning methodology. Our study involved a wide range of HCWs: dentists, physiotherapist, nurses, physicians and students. We performed a 6-week observation period, March-April 2010 and the same period in 2011.

## Results

Around 10.000 opportunities for HH were observed in each period. Compliance in the first period was 30.9% (95% C.I.:30-31.7). The second period is currently taking place, but an interim analysis reveals a HH compliance of a 47%(95% C.I.:44,92-49,38).

In the 1<sup>st</sup> period the lowest compliance is achieved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> moment (14.6%; before an aseptic task), followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> moment (25.1%; before patient contact). In the second period the use of alcohol based solutions have increased reaching a 77% of all HH performed. The technique has also improved.

## Conclusion

The result of the regional strategy shows an important improvement in HH compliance.

We believe this improvement is having a impact in reducing health care associated infections. Further studies are needed to assure sustainability in time and impact in infection rates.

## Disclosure of interest

None declared.

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