

00062 Healthcare Workers' Knowledge, Beliefs and Self-reported Practices of Hand Hygiene in Alexandra Hospital, Singapore

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Aims: Background: Globally, the hand hygiene compliance of healthcare workers was found to be low, and inadequate hand hygiene has often been associated with healthcare-associated infections.

However, in Singapore, there is a paucity of studies investigating healthcare workers' knowledge, beliefs and practices of hand hygiene to improve hand hygiene compliance.

Aim: To examine healthcare workers' knowledge, beliefs and self-reported practices of hand hygiene to improve hand hygiene compliance.

Methodology: A self-administered anonymous questionnaire was conducted among healthcare workers through convenience sampling in Alexandra Hospital, Singapore during September to November 2016. Healthcare workers' knowledge, beliefs and self-reported practices of hand hygiene were measured using the Hand Hygiene Knowledge Questionnaire, Hand Hygiene Belief Scale and Hand Hygiene Practice Inventory respectively. Data were analyzed using the IBM SPSS Statistics software version 24.0.

Result: Healthcare workers' knowledge of hand hygiene was found to be moderate with median (interquartile range) score of 18 (17, 19) out of 25. Healthcare workers' hand hygiene beliefs were identified to be positive and moderate with score of 63 (59, 68) out of 90. On the other hand, healthcare workers had high self-reported practices of hand hygiene with score of 69 (65, 70) out of 70.

Conclusion: The findings of this study suggest that regular hand hygiene training is recommended to address the knowledge deficits among healthcare workers. In addition, healthcare leaders may utilize the positive hand hygiene beliefs of healthcare workers to improve hand hygiene compliance. Furthermore, healthcare leaders may consider reflecting healthcare workers' self-reported practices of hand hygiene against the actual hand hygiene compliance to highlight the discrepancy. Likewise, measures adopted by other healthcare institutions such as, recognition, incentives and annual hand hygiene competency could be adopted to improve hand hygiene compliance. Lastly, future research may investigate the correlations between healthcare workers' knowledge, beliefs and practices of hand hygiene.