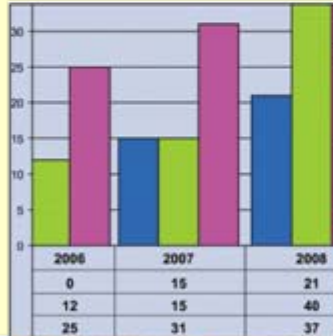


Improving Hand Hygiene – Difficult, but not Impossible

Category: Prevention

October 2008



2008 NSW Health EXPO



Prepared by Ahmed Jamal

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Brought to you by:





Aim

- To reduce the spread of serious germs, including healthcare associated infections, by increasing good hand hygiene in all clinical areas to 80% by June 2007.



Nature of the Problem

- Reducing the spread of germs in hospitals is vital for improving patient safety.
- A number of completed studies clearly demonstrate that hand hygiene is an effective means of preventing HAIs.



Extent of the Problem

- An initial hand hygiene audit was completed in August 2006 (compliance = 23%).
- Alcohol based hand rub was not available at the point of care.
- No recording or reporting mechanism was available on hand hygiene performance.



Strategic Importance

- Strategic Direction - 'Make prevention everybody's business'.
- Strategic plan - conduct programs and campaigns, using evidence-based strategies, to promote health and wellness and prevent injury and illness.
- Reducing hospital acquired infections.

Planning & Implementing Solutions

- A multidisciplinary project team was established.
- Hand hygiene became a regular agenda item at meetings of the Hospital's Health Care Quality Committee.
- Alcohol based hand rub was made available throughout the Hospital.
- Education sessions, using ultra-violet light, were conducted for staff to improve their understanding of what constitutes good hand hygiene practice.



Bugsy



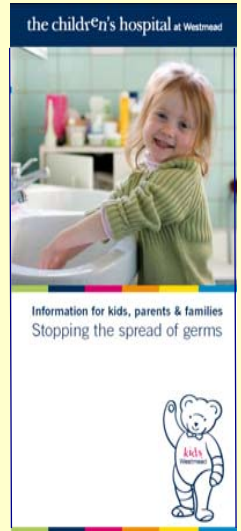
Planning & Implementing Solutions

- A standardised overt observation tool is used and over 1000 observations per month are conducted to monitor staff adherence to Hand Hygiene.
- A number of auditors are also trained from different areas to help the auditing process.
- Promotional items, including locally developed posters and brochures, are used to enhance awareness amongst staff, patients and families.



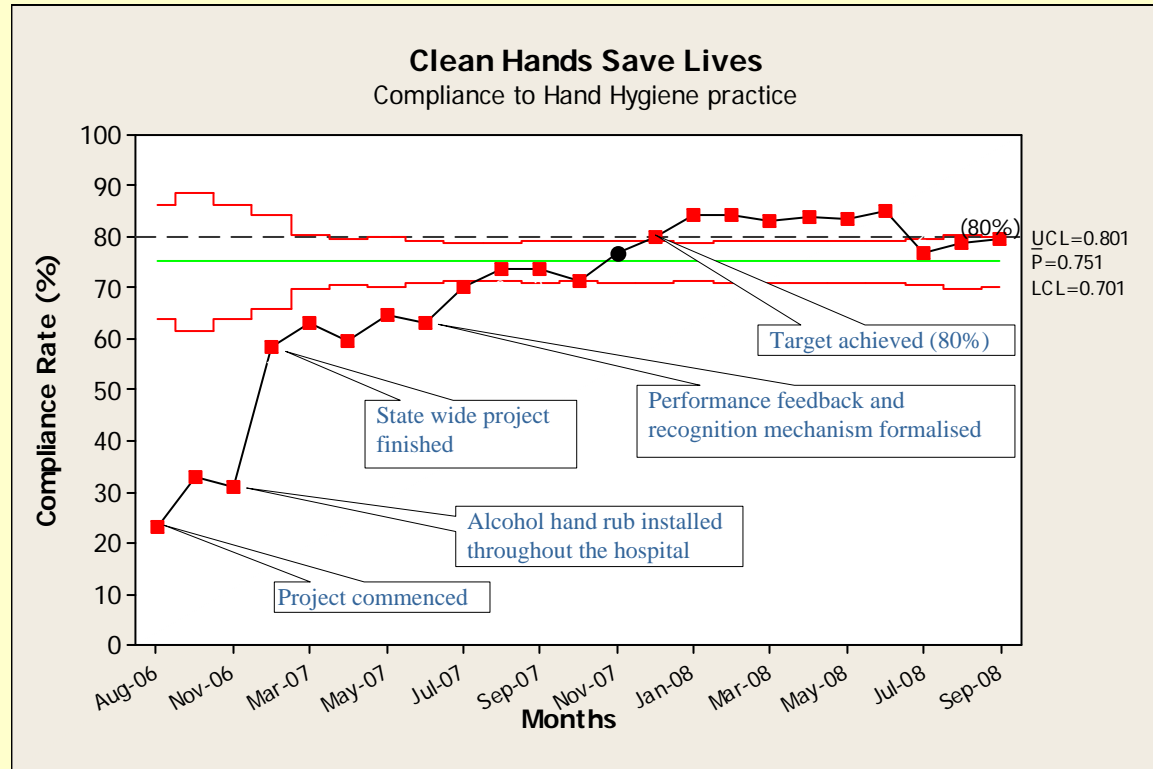
Planning & Implementing Solutions

- Family Advisory Council was engaged to provide advice on initiatives from the consumer perspective and to review our promotional and educational material.
- Comprehensive information on Hand Hygiene practice is forwarded to all clinical areas and senior management on a monthly basis.
- The best performing areas are rewarded with chocolates and a certificate by an executive.



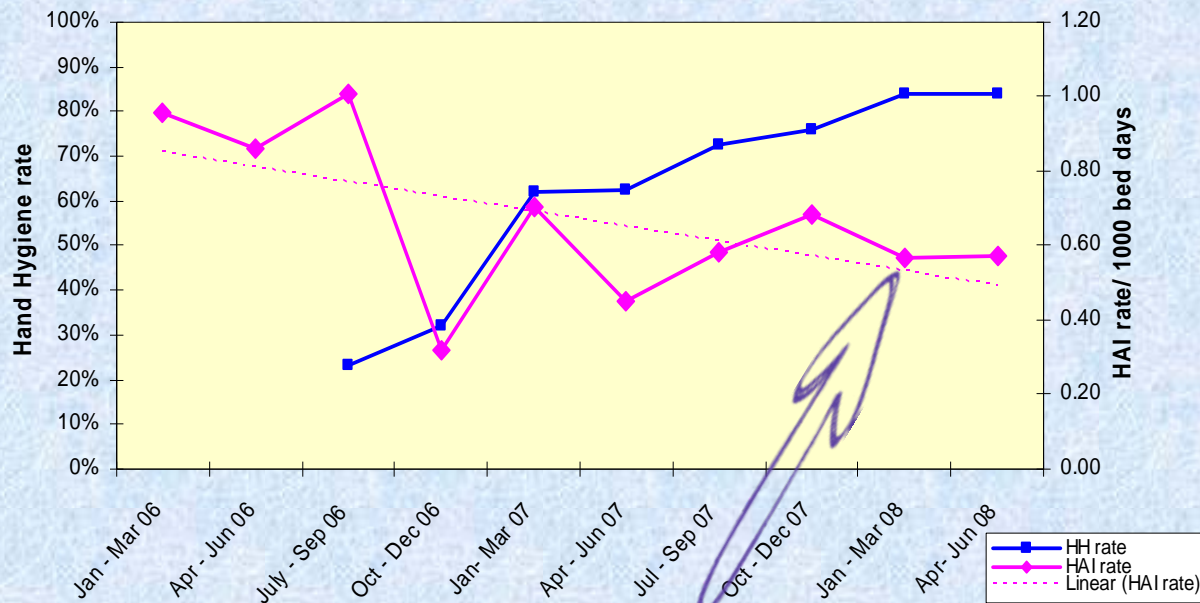
Outcomes & Evaluation

- The overall compliance to hand hygiene has increased from 23% (Aug 2006) to above 80%.
- There is consistent performance across all clinical areas with less than 1% variation in compliance.



Outcomes & Evaluation

Hand Hygiene and Hospital Acquired Infection Rates
(Including MROs, Bacteremia and Rota virus data only)

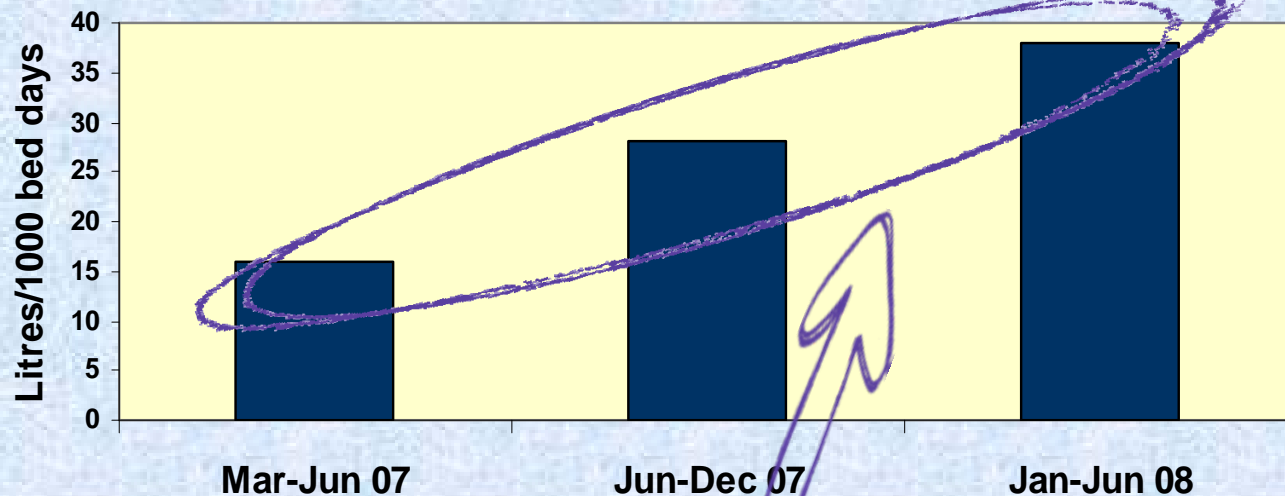


A set of hospital Acquired Infection (HAIs) which include Rotavirus, MROs and Bacteremia is being monitored to assess the overall effectiveness of interventions.

A downward trendline is encouraging

Outcomes & Evaluation

Alcohol based hand rub consumption



Currently over 250 litres of ABHR is used each month in comparison to 100 litres in March 2007.

Use of ABHR has increased from 16L/ 1000 bed days to over 37L/1000 bed days.

Sustaining Change

- Hand Hygiene is a regular agenda item on the Hospital's peak committee - the Health Care Quality Committee.
- All interventions - education, auditing, sharing of performance and monitoring of outcomes are embedded in our regular activities.





Lessons Learned

- A framework with multimodal and multidisciplinary strategies is more likely to achieve desired outcomes.
- Compliance to hand washing is largely self-monitored.
- Overabundance of reminders may desensitise the staff.
- There are few embedded reminders and there is no automation to support hand hygiene.



Future Scope

- Link with National Hand Hygiene Initiative.
- Eliminate gaps between what is best practice and what we actually practice.
- Better and more user friendly dispenser nozzle design
- Portable personal belt dispensers.
- Reporting of information to staff on a monthly basis e.g. number of HAIs or number of days since last HAI in their area.
- Explore options for random swabbing and culture testing of people's hands, it might make a difference to compliance.

“Hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs.”



the **childr^en's** hospital at Westmead

With thanks to:

