

Pacific Infection Prevention and Control Network Meeting

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2023 PACIFIC INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL NETWORK MEETING
24 – 26 May 2023, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda Item N° 4.2

HAND HYGIENE AUDITING PROJECT

(Paper presented by Ms Belinda Eungel, Infection Control Coordinator,
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Palau IPC focal points were provided educated on the Gold standard hand hygiene auditors training and are now recognized as Gold Standard Auditors. The training was provided by the program manager of Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) and facilitated through the Pacific Community.

Additionally, with support from the Pacific Community, we now have access to hand hygiene auditing standard operating procedures and audit tools, that was adapted with permission from the HHA 5 Moments for hand hygiene manual to make it more appropriate for a Pacific Island context.

Following training on Hand Hygiene (HH) audits, we carried out baseline audit in the Medical Ward, Belau National Hospital and used the baseline HH audit report to develop a multi-modal strategy plan to address non-compliance.

1. BACKGROUND

1. Palau (Belau) National Hospital Clinical Services includes 80 bed capacity of its acute care settings of medical, surgical, and labor and delivery with Obstetrics and Gynecology wards. It also includes an emergency room; operating theatres and a hemodialysis Unit.

2. Previously, Hand Hygiene (HH) practice in Belau National Hospital (BNH) was measured in terms of availability of products (either paper towels, hand soap and availability of ABHR). Over the past 10-20 years availability of handwashing products has increased from 35% availability to almost 100% availability of Hand Washing products.

3. Currently, with training provided by Hand hygiene Australia, through the Pacific Community on the '5 Moments of Hand Hygiene', we are now equipped with the technical skills to audit healthcare workers on the 5 moments for hand hygiene.

2. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4. In 2022, three (3) staff from Palau achieved the Gold Standard hand hygiene auditor certification.

5. We carried out baseline hand hygiene audits in the Medical Ward, a total of 61 moments were audited. The overall compliance rate was 13%.

6. Following these results, an improvement plan was developed using the WHO multi-modal plan that consisted of the following elements:

- System change (ensure infrastructure and material and supplies for hand hygiene): ABHR Dispensers to be installed at each individual patient bed, and pocket size ABHR to be provided to healthcare workers daily.
- Education (staff of the pilot wards trained on hand hygiene my 5 moments): Continue education for Doctors, Nurses and Ancillary Staff on HH and 5 Moments.
- Monitoring and feedback: Results of HH Audits to be posted in patient wards and clinics, and incentives for improvements to be identified.
- Reminders in the workplace: 5 Moments posters to be placed in patient care areas.
- Institutional safety climate Support put in place for funding and technical assistance from Ministry of Health and the Pacific Community

4. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Support for infrastructure – resources, materials and equipment to perform hand hygiene at the point of care.
 2. That hand hygiene monitoring and feedback should be a national indicator; not only in Palau but in all Pacific Island Countries and Territories.
 3. Support for hand hygiene database including education materials.
 4. Continue to provide training and support the primary healthcare facilities with WASH infrastructure.
 5. Implement the minimum requirements of IPC programs at the National and Healthcare facility level
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