

"Non lavartene le mani!"

("Don't wash your hands out of it !"): Promotion Campaign of hand hygiene in Ferrara Teaching Hospital, Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy)

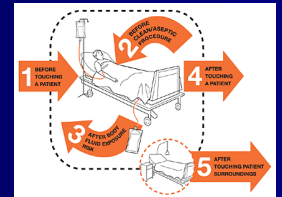
P.M. Antonioli*, K. Montanari**, M.C. Manzalini*, L. Alvoni*, V. Dalpozzo*, A. Malacarne*

*Struttura Dipartimentale di Igiene Ospedaliera

**Scuola di Specializzazione in Igiene e Medicina Preventiva, Università di Ferrara

INTRODUCTION:

Patient's safety, linked to health-care facilities, is a topic that worries in increasing way the Sanitary Systems of the world. The health care-associated infections (HAI) involve high costs for the patient, the family, the health-system and are cause of death. Such consequences can be prevented with the simple action of hand hygiene in the "5 fundamental moments" indicated by WHO.



PURPOSE/METHODS:

To reduce the HAI by promoting the compliance to hand hygiene between operators, patients, care givers and visitors, throughout the participation on international experimentation of WHO' s Guide Lines by the multimodal strategy.

This has strengthened the local Campaign "Non lavartene le mani!" ("Don't wash your hands out of it!"), already started on 9 May 2006. **Key elements** are organizational changes, blended formation strategy, observation of hand hygiene practice, some reminders and engagement of some local Testimonials who gave their personal image in the local Campaign. Another key element is the patient and his family's involvement with dedicated instruments to promote hand hygiene. The Campaign is also directed to the cleaning staff.

RESULTS:

The experimentation, conducted in Urology, Neurosurgery and Haematology-Centre for Transplant of bone marrow during 2007-2008, evidenced:

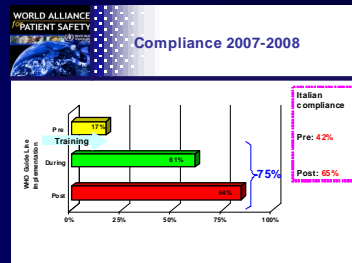
- an elevated **perception** about the importance of right hand hygiene practice between the operators (**83%**)
- the observed **compliance** started from 17% before experimentation of WHO' s Guide Lines to **75%** after (+ 58%)
- the **HAI prevalence rate** diminished from 11.9% before experimentation to 8.7% after (- 3.2%).

WORLD ALLIANCE / PATIENT SAFETY

What is the average percentage of occasions on which operators in your hospital actually performs hand hygiene with alcohol-based product or with soap and water when recommended (from 0 to 100%)?

| Perceived percentage of compliance | PRE Campaign % of answer | POST Campaign % of answer |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 10 | 3 | 0 |
| 20 | 5 | 3 |
| 30 | 3 | 4 |
| 40 | 6 | 3 |
| 50 | 22 | 9 |
| 60 | 5 | 4 |
| 70 | 6 | 8 |
| 80 | 20 | 26 |
| 90 | 22 | 34 |
| 100 | 8 | 8 |

83% 88%



At present, the implementation phase is in scaling-up. In 2009 it involved an Intensive Care Unit, with an observed **compliance** of 56%. In 2010, restarting from Urology, Neurosurgery and Haematology-Centre for Transplant of bone marrow, the implementation was extended on another ICU, Neonatology and Obstetrics. Data aren't yet available.

CONCLUSIONS:

Sustainability, feasibility and effectiveness of the initiative has supported the decision to start the implementation in scale-up in all the Departments in the **quinquennium 2009-2013**. In occasion of the Campaign anniversary, on 9 May 2009, the Plan showed and confirmed its high value, strengthened by the experience of participation to the international experimentation. It has enriched the local know-how with new attention to the topic of the hand hygiene.

COMMENTS:

Ferrara Teaching Hospital, Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy) supports the WHO new initiative to promote the importance of hand hygiene at the point of care "Save lives: Clean Your Hands!"

