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Nurses' perceptions of factors affecting hand hygiene practices in level II hospitals in Manila city

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Aim: This study aims to identify the perceptions of nurses in hospitals located in the City of Manila regarding factors affecting hand hygiene practices among intensive care units and non-intensive care units.

Method: This study utilized a survey research design with multi-stage stratified cluster sampling by means of the WHO perception survey for healthcare workers (Cronbach's alpha=0.81) and one question from Larson's attitudes regarding practice guidelines questionnaire (Cronbach's alpha=0.83) to gather data. Chi-square test of independence and t-test for independent samples were utilized for data analysis.

Result: Factors affecting hand hygiene are categorized into three, namely, predisposing, enabling and reinforcing. Tolerance of the hands to using alcohol based hand rub is not statistically significant between ICU and non-ICU nurses among the predisposing factors affecting hand hygiene. Among the enabling factors, there is no significant association between being an ICU or non-ICU nurse in formal training in hand hygiene practice and routine alcohol based hand rub use. Lastly, all reinforcing factors affecting hand hygiene are reported to be statistically significant between ICU and non-ICU nurses except the importance of hand hygiene to colleagues.

Conclusion: The results of the study necessitates implementation of hand hygiene campaigns, focusing mainly on provision of formal training to all nurses regardless of area of assignment, regular feedback regarding hand hygiene performance from unit managers and being a good example to colleagues as a positive reinforcement and patient-initiated reminders.

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