

Scotland's National Hand Hygiene Campaign

Campaign Update January 2010

Community Campaign

Scotland's National Hand Hygiene Campaign is now entering its 4th year and has focused on the acute healthcare setting to date. However, in order to support NHS boards to meet the requirement of a zero tolerance approach to non-compliance with hand hygiene the Campaign has been extended into non-acute settings, such as Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) independent contractors including GPs, optometrists, dentists, and community pharmacists. A range of awareness raising materials has been designed specifically to meet the needs of these professional groups and will be distributed in early February 2010. All materials can be viewed and downloaded free of charge at <http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/index.html>

Acute Sector Campaign

A range of hand hygiene awareness raising materials were distributed to all NHS boards during 2009 including updated '5 moments for hand hygiene' posters, revised staff and public hand hygiene information leaflets and credit card sized flyers containing information on respiratory etiquette. In addition, a reminder message about when to use alcohol based hand rub and soap and water was relayed to all NHSScotland staff in their payslips over August, September, October and November 2009.

In addition, many initiatives are undertaken locally to improve hand hygiene practice. Please contact your Local Health Board Coordinator (LHBC) for Hand Hygiene for further information.

Contact details for LHBCs available at <http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/contacts.html>

All materials can be viewed at the following link:
<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/index.html>

Children's Pack

The "helping children learn about hand hygiene" pack was developed for primary schools and nurseries and aims to make hand washing a fun and natural activity for young children. It was originally issued in 2007, and was revised to include a respiratory message about catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue, disposing of used tissues and washing hands afterwards. Packs were reissued to schools and nurseries in August 2009 along with posters more applicable to older age groups.

The pack provides several useful materials to support staff in developing hand washing related activities and is designed to be used with children between the ages of three and six, although staff can adapt some of it to include slightly older children. The pack was originally developed with the help of Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS), and contains a short DVD featuring a cartoon character called Handy, some posters and stickers of Handy and a range of Handy activity materials, all of which are free to be copied for use by educational establishments. In addition, these and other materials can be downloaded from the Health Protection Scotland website at www.washyourhandsofthem.com.

Together with the hand hygiene messages these are vital ways of helping children to reduce the spread of germs and protect themselves and others.

The “helping children learn about hand hygiene” can be viewed and materials downloaded free of charge at the following link:

<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/campaign/childrenspack.html>

Scotland’s National Hand Hygiene Audit

The Healthcare Associated Infection Action Plan published by the Scottish Government Health Directorate in August 2008 stipulated that Health Protection Scotland (HPS) produce bi-monthly National Hand Hygiene Audit Reports. The first bi-monthly audit report was published in May 2009 and thereafter in July, September, November 2009 and January 2010. National compliance is currently sustained at greater than 90%.

The audit describes occasions when NHS staff have taken the opportunity to carry out hand hygiene at the points in delivering clinical care as described in the World Health Organization (WHO) published guidance on ‘Your 5 moments for hand hygiene’. It is not the aim of the national reports to describe any other aspects of hand hygiene performance outwith compliance with opportunity taken, for example the use of correct hand hygiene technique.

Data are collected in each NHS board by a dedicated Local Health Board Coordinator for Hand Hygiene (LHBC) who has been trained by Health Protection Scotland to manage the audit according to a national protocol.

A validation exercise was undertaken in 2009 to measure inter-rater reliability between the LHBCs who collect the audit data. This demonstrated almost perfect agreement between LHBCs indicating that they are correctly identifying “moments” for hand hygiene as part of the audit process, thus providing assurance that the data reported is robust and reliable.

All national hand hygiene audit reports published by HPS can be viewed at:

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/nationalhandhygienecampaign.aspx>

Information about the WHO 5 moments for hand hygiene can be found at:

<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/index.html>

Local Health Board Co-ordinator (LHBC) Support Activities

A training and update session was held on 27th and 28th August 2009 for 25 NHS Scotland staff and LHBCs (update) on the following:

- The concept of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 5 moments for hand hygiene through observation and discussion
- Basic audit methodology linked to the use of the revised hand hygiene audit protocol (4th Edition)
- Practical application of the data collection tool and observations of the 5 moments for hand hygiene
- Use of the Tablet PC and audit software through provision of an interactive session

This event was for LHBCs and those clinical healthcare staff who would be expected to deputise for the LHBC by undertaking hand hygiene audit during the national audit periods.

The overall aim of the event was to increase the capacity of NHS Boards to deliver national hand hygiene audit data and to deliver standardized audit training for those staff undertaking the national audits.

The presentations given at the training event can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/support/lhbc.html>

Presentation of Hand Hygiene Campaign Audit Data at UK and International Conferences

National hand hygiene compliance data has been presented at a number of UK and international conferences including the Health Protection Agency conference in Warwick (2009), the Infection Prevention Society conference in Harrogate (2009), the ESCAIDE conference in Stockholm (2009) and the WHO First Global Patient Safety Challenge technical meeting in Geneva (2009). In addition, an abstract has been submitted to SHEA for a poster presentation at the conference in 2010. This is an important facet to the work of the Campaign both in sharing good practice and profiling the world leading work being undertaken in Scotland to improve the hand hygiene practice of an entire country, including healthcare staff and the public.

National Service Needs Evaluation

A comprehensive literature search identified that there is a lack of information regarding hand hygiene compliance in community healthcare/primary care settings. Few studies have focused on hand hygiene compliance among nurses in the community and, in particular, there is no information regarding the use of the World Health Organization's 'Your 5 moments for hand hygiene' in primary care settings.

The Hand Hygiene Campaign Team agreed to undertake a nationwide service needs evaluation to determine the barriers to hand hygiene compliance experienced by community nurses. The survey tool was piloted in one CHP in NHS Highland and the revised tool issued to a set sample throughout NHSScotland. The World Health Organization is particularly interested in the results from this evaluation.

This is a novel piece of work and we hope that the results obtained will support campaign activities aimed at improving current hand hygiene practice in community settings across NHSScotland.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The Campaign Team remains in close contact with those leading the **"SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands"** programme at WHO and would like to highlight the WHO initiated Global Hand Hygiene Day on 5 May 2010 to promote the importance of hand hygiene. The Campaign Team is working with others to identify local and national initiatives for this event including other Campaign Teams throughout the UK. If you wish further information about Global Hand Hygiene Day please do not hesitate to contact us at our email address NSS.washyourhandsofthem@nhs.net.

Resources

The following resources are available on the Campaign web site

<http://www.washyourhandsofthem.com/index.html>

- A bank of published literature relevant to hand hygiene with additional relevant articles added on an ongoing basis.
- Powerpoint presentations that can be adapted for local use are available for download
- Staff and public information leaflets can be downloaded, or copies obtained by contacting your LHBC

- Instructional videos on hand hygiene technique can be downloaded
- Information, protocols and an audit data collection form for conducting hand hygiene audit can be downloaded.

All awareness raising materials can be downloaded and used free of charge however no alteration can be made to any of the products.

And finally ...

The programme of work for 2010/2011 is currently in development and the Campaign Team at HPS would like to thank colleagues across the country for continuing to support Scotland's Hand Hygiene Campaign in its goal for improved public health protection.

Please forward this Campaign update to anyone you feel would benefit from a further understanding of the work of the Project Team

If you wish further details about the plans of the campaign in year 2010/2011 please do not hesitate to contact the Hand Hygiene Project Team on the following details:

Our website address is www.washyourhandsofthem.com

Email address: NSS.Washyourhandsofthem@nhs.net

Phone number: 0141 282 2902

Our next stakeholder update is due to be issued in September 2010. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list for this update please let us know.

Best wishes from the Hand Hygiene Project Team

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