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Implementing WHO Hand Hygiene in a U.S. Pharmacy School

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Implementing WHO Hand Hygiene in a U.S. Pharmacy School

Disciplines

Pharmacy Administration, Policy and Regulation

Comments

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Implementing WHO Hand Hygiene in a US Pharmacy School

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The Problem

Hand hygiene is *not* included in accreditation standards for US pharmacy schools, nor is it included in the Part III practicum of the New York State Board of Pharmacy licensing exam.

The Intervention

The Wegmans School of Pharmacy, St. John Fisher College (Rochester, New York) introduced WHO hand hygiene training as a requirement for its incoming class in 2011.

Week 1: In-class viewing of "Hand Hygiene", the 2011 New England Journal of Medicine training video followed by student practice with alcohol-based hand gel with the WHO hand out (right).

Week 2: Written exam about hand hygiene indications, importance, practice.

Week 3: Extra credit viewing of movie, *Contagion*, and discussion board participation.

Weeks 6-8: Assessment of individual student performance of hand hygiene thoroughness and speed (see figure at right).

The Context

- Health-care associated infections are a top 10 cause of death in the US.
- Prevention requires hand hygiene.
- Pharmacy students complete $\geq 1,740$ hours of internship in community, hospital and other settings, typically moving to new sites every 6 to 15 weeks over 3 years.
- Students likely encounter contaminated surfaces, carriers, infected patients and immuno-compromised patients.

How to Handrub?

RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

⌚ Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds



Results

78(97.5%) of students saw the video, practiced their technique in class, and completed the knowledge, motivation and attitude survey. 80 (100%) of students successfully completed the written exam. 52 (65%) viewed *Contagion* and participated in the discussion board. Additional analyses are underway.

Conclusions

Hand hygiene can be incorporated into existing US pharmacy education. Future work should focus on reinforcement of learned concepts throughout training, enumeration and remediation of surface contamination in training areas and the longitudinal tracking of student colonization by antimicrobial resistant microorganisms.

US State Boards of Pharmacy and the American Council on Pharmacy Education may wish to consider including hand hygiene on state licensing exams and as an accreditation standard.

