**INTRODUCTION**

“Clean Care is Safer Care” was launched by World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2005 with the aim to promote hand hygiene practices globally to reduce healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) enhancing patient safety. WHO celebrates Hand Hygiene Day on 5 May every year.

With the release of WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare – First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care is Safer Care (2009), Healthcare Organizations around the world has embarked on programs to create awareness of Hand Hygiene among healthcare workers, hospital administrators and health authorities in preventing HCAIs.

5 key moments for Hand Hygiene are as follows:

- Before touching a patient
- Before clean/aseptic techniques
- After body fluid exposure/risk
- After touching patient
- After touching patient surroundings

**METHODOLOGY**

The Annual SingHealth Hand Hygiene Event is an initiative of the SingHealth Infection Control & Prevention Workgroup (SICPW), one of the five Centres of Excellence (CoE) under SingHealth’s Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework. SingHealth has been holding this event for 3 years from 2014 to 2016.

The aim of the Event is to promote awareness of the importance of Hand Hygiene in assuring patient and staff safety and improve Hand Hygiene Compliance at SingHealth.

The Event consist of three major components:

**SITUATION ANALYSIS**

WHO Hand Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework was adopted to obtain a situation analysis of hand hygiene promotion and practices within SingHealth Institutions. It was done by Infection Control Nurses of each institution.

The framework includes 5 components, naming: (i) System Change; (ii) Training and Education; (iii) Evaluation and Feedback; (iv) Reminders in Workplace; (v) Institutional Safety Climate for Hand Hygiene.

**IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS**

A cluster-wide online Hand Hygiene Climate Survey was conducted annually on SingHealth Intranet to identify gaps for addressing and areas for improvement in Hand Hygiene at SingHealth Institutions.

**RAISING AWARENESS**

Hand Hygiene Activities carried out at SingHealth and Institutional Levels to raise the awareness of the importance of hand hygiene among staff and public.

**RESULTS**

All SingHealth Institutions’ Hand Hygiene Level falls under the “Advanced” Level (hand hygiene promotion and optimal hand hygiene practices have been sustained and/or improved). Improvements were observed for all five components over the past 3 years. The biggest improvement was seen in “Institutional Safety Climate” from 80.6 to 94.3.

**CONCLUSION**

The Annual Event has helped to generate awareness in hand hygiene practices collectively as a healthcare cluster, identify gaps for addressing and promote cross institution sharing & learning.

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**References**

1. WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare, WHO 2009