

Thematic Analysis for the Factors Influencing Compliance Rate of Hand Hygiene for the Health Care Workers in Emergency Department: A Critical Literature Review for the Future Hand hygiene Battle

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Introduction

Healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) or nosocomial infections are major global health problems which are preventable disease. Hand hygiene (HH) is the most simple and effective way to prevent HCAIs, however, the compliance rate for that has been shown to be poor. Although many studies have identified factors influencing HH compliance among Health Care Workers (HCWs) in general hospital settings. However, there are limited studies have been done in the setting of Emergency Department (ED).

Aim

To critically review the identified literatures on factors influencing HH for HCWs in ED; To make reference for future direction for HH issue in emergency care.

Method

CINAHL, MEDLINE and PSYCINFO databases were systematically searched. Critical Literature Review (CLR) was adopted and each article was systematically reviewed by using the critiquing framework of Coughlan et al. (2007) and the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) to identify the trustworthiness and applicability. The thematic analysis was adopted to identify common themes.

Results / Outcome

Over 100 articles met the eligibility criteria and 10 common themes were identified. There was a domino effect among the identified themes. Positive chain reaction formed by the driving forces and the restraining forces develop negative chain reaction. However, negative chain reaction and domino effects can be minimized by the dominant factor of “Top management support” in its positive nature. All the factors may then become positive influencing factors. The HCWs’ perception and their HH behaviour is one of major factors that influence the compliance of the HH. Commitment and motivation to one’s self are imperative to achieve in promoting the HH.

Conclusion

HH compliance is still the great challenges for health administrators in emergency care in future. To win the HH battle by increasing the HH compliance for HCWs in ED, top management support and effective leadership are of paramount importance to success.