

**ARCHI**  
**Improving Patient Safety: Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections**  
**Toolkit Seminar: 3-4 August 2005**

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| <b>Title:</b>    | <b>Creating an environment of cultural change: Clean Hands - Less Bugs.</b>  |
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| <b>Abstract:</b> | <p><b>Introduction</b><br/> Poor hand hygiene (HH) (handwashing and/or hand disinfection) among healthcare workers is a large problem associated with healthcare associated infections and is a major factor in the spread of antibiotic resistant pathogens within hospitals.</p> <p>The Victorian Quality Council (VQC) Hand Hygiene pilot project was commenced in 2004 with the aim to develop a practical model for sustained improvement in hand hygiene practices for Victorian health services to reduce the risk of healthcare associated infection.</p> <p><b>Results</b><br/> As the 18 month pilot project nears completion, all 6 pilot health services have shown a marked increase in alcohol hand rub usage and a significant improvement in HH compliance by health care workers. The average HH compliance of the pilot health services has increased from 21.2% [95%CI: 20.5 – 22.0] to 45.7% [95%CI: 44.8 – 46.6] (p&lt;0.001). There is ongoing surveillance of MRSA bacteraemia and isolates in the pilot health services.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b><br/> This presentation will focus on the implementation of the multimodal and multidisciplinary approach adopted to achieve the cultural change required to improve HH practices among health care workers. The model includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction of an alcohol-chlorhexidine HH product and improved HH practices to 2-3 wards initially and later the whole hospital;</li> <li>• communication and education tools;</li> <li>• active participation and feedback at both individual and organisational levels;</li> <li>• involvement of institutional leaders; and</li> <li>• collection of three outcome indicators: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) hand hygiene product usage</li> <li>b) rates of hand hygiene compliance</li> <li>c) healthcare associated infection rates.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>An implementation process evaluation is currently underway to inform a potential state wide rollout.</p> |