Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses’ Personal Items

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Abstract
Nosocomial infections are infections whose development is favored by a hospital environment. In 2001, CDC stated that there were 721,800 nosocomial infections. Nosocomial infections can develop due to non-adequate disinfection of hospital equipment, or dirty room environment.

Literary Findings

Scrubs
- Pathogenic bacteria was found on all scrubs
- Majority of the bacteria was found on pants and shirts, area of the abdomen, and the crotch area
- Literature found that it was not the scrub that was the problem, but it was with hand hygiene compliance

Cell Phones
- One article found that the cell phones used at the hospital by nurses carried pathogenic microbes in 100% of the phones
- The other two studies found that no pathogenic microbes were found on their phones
- For these studies, their phones were never to have any pathogens microbes because the phones lived in their pockets
- The smooth surfaces of new smart phones does not allow for any microbes to stick to the phone
- Literature stated that the cleanliness of the cell phones was different in the cleanliness of the employees’ hands

Stethoscopes
- There were pathogenic bacteria found on all of the stethoscopes’ diaphragms
- The literature concluded that all stethoscopes worn by nurses other healthcare providers should be sanitized between each patient
- Stethoscopes have the potential of being a fomite

Published Articles

Staphylococcus aureus

Cell Phones
- Mobile phone use in clinical practice: reducing the risk of potential contamination. The Royal Society of Clinical Medicine, 16(3), 141-145.

Stethoscopes

Research Proposal
The research design will be a quantitative survey design and the subjects will be nurses working in both the Intensive Care Units (ICU) and Medical-Surgical floors.

Problem Statement
In 2002, nosocomial infections killed approximately 99,000 US citizens, which represented 1.7 million cases of hospital-acquired infections per year in the US.

Survey
1. What is your routine for your used uniform after your shift when you leave the hospital, and how often do you wear the proper PPE as to not get contaminated?
2. Do you keep your cell phone on you while you are working?
3. If yes, what do you use your cell phone for?
4. Do you use hot water while washing your hands?
5. How many times do you wash your hands during your shift?
6. What is your routine for your used uniform after your shift when you leave the hospital, and how often do you wear the proper PPE as to not get contaminated?
7. Do you use clean your stethoscope in between each patient when you initially come on shift?
8. What are a few situations where you have not applied the PPE between patients’ rooms?
9. How likely are you to use the proper isolation precautions when walking into a patients’ room from 0-10?
10. What is your routine for your used uniform after your shift when you leave the hospital, and how often do you wear the proper PPE as to not get contaminated?

Findings
In the literature review that was read the two things that nurses need to make a priority while working are: proper hand washing and using alcohol to clean their stethoscopes between patient contact. There are 1.7 million cases a year that are traced back to nosocomial infections.

Indications for Clinical Practice
The importance of this study is to see if nurses have the time to properly don the correct PPE while working and if nurses are washing their hands as much as they need to. In all of the literature review that was read the two things that nurses need to make a priority while working are: proper hand washing and using alcohol to clean their stethoscopes between patient contact.

Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Dr. Potter for giving me the confidence to present my work and for believing in me. I would also like to thank my fellow for never giving up on the throughout my nursing career.

References