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Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses’ Personal Items

Corina Hickman
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Abstract
• Nosocomial infections are infections whose development is favored by a hospital environment.
• In 2001, CDC stated that there were 712,800 nosocomial infections.
• Nosocomial infections can develop due to non-adherence of isolation precautions, contaminated hospital equipment, or dirty room environment.

Literary Findings

Scrubs
• Pathogenic bacteria were found on all scrubs.
• Majority of the bacteria was found on pockets (pants and shirts), area of the abdomen, and the chest area.
• Literature found that it was not the scrubs that were 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.
• The other two studies found that no pathogenic microbes were found on their phones.
• For these studies, phones were tested to have no pathogenic microbes before they used were smart phones.
• The research surface of few smart phones does not allow for pathogenic microbes to stick to the phone.
• Literature found that the cleanliness of the cell phones are determinant in the cleanliness of the employees’ hands.

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

Research Proposal
The research design will be a questionnaire survey design and the instruments, created to direct the study. Demographic include; age, gender, length of time as nurse, length of time at current hospitals, isolation back ground, average hours worked per week, 12 or 8 Hour shifts, do you work at more than one hospital, and currently.

Survey
• Hand washing
  How many times do you wash your hands during your shift?
  Do you use hot water while washing your hands?
  Do you wash your hands for the recommended 15-30 seconds in between patient rooms?

Cell Phone
• How confident are you, on a scale from 1 to 10, that your cell phone is germ free?
• Do you use your cell phone on when you are working on the floor?
• Do you bring your cell phone out while you are working?
• If yes, what do you use your cell phone for?
• Approximately, how many minutes a shift is your cell phone out of your pocket?
• Do you wash your hands each time before and after touching your cell phone?

Scrubs
• Are your scrubs brought from home or supplied by the hospital?
• Do you wash your hands and forearms for the recommended 1.5 minute wash?
• Do you know the hospital recommendations and guidelines to decrease the amount of microbes and bacteria on your uniform?

Hand Washing
How many times do you wash your hands during your shift?
Approximately, how many minutes a shift is your cell phone out of your pocket?
How many times do you wash your hands during your shift?

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Problem Statement
• In 2002, nosocomial infections killed approximately 22,000 Americans. This represents about 1.7 million cases of hospital-acquired infections per year in the U.S.
• Nurses are in contact with most patients and pose the greatest risk to their patients’ health.
• Event fihades are taking the standards’ precautions, there is still a risk of transferring pathogen through their scrubs that they take home, their stethoscopes that are not being sanitized between patients, and their cell phones.
• Nosocomial infections can cause mortality, morbidity, and have a high cost for hospitals.
• Insurance companies and patients are not responsible for costs if a patient acquires a nosocomial infection.
• The purpose of this study is to look at how much nurses’ influence nosocomial infections on intensive care units (ICU) and Medical-Surgical floors.

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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. This is one 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. There are 1.7 million cases a year that are traced back to nosocomial infections, and hospitals need to do more education and put more of an importance on the cleanliness of all employee’s hands.

References

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Paul Lacat et al