2015

Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses' Personal Items

Corina Hickman

Dominican University of California

Survey: Let us know how this paper benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.dominican.edu/ug-student-posters

Part of the Nursing Commons

Recommended Citation
https://scholar.dominican.edu/ug-student-posters/5

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at Dominican Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Research Posters by an authorized administrator of Dominican Scholar. For more information, please contact michael.pujals@dominican.edu.
Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses’ Personal Items

Corina Hickman
Department of Nursing, Dominican University of California, San Rafael, California

Abstract
- Nosocomial infections are infections whose development is favored by a hospital environment.
- In 2002, CDC stated that there were 721,800 nosocomial infections.
- Nosocomial infections can develop due to non-sterile items in the hospital environment.
- Scrubs, Stethoscopes, and cell phones are contaminated with bacteria.
- Regular hand washing is not adequate to clean these items.

Problem Statement
- In 2002, nosocomial infections led to approximately 99,000 deaths and cost hospitals about $1.7 million per year.
- Nurses in contact with patients pose the greatest risk to their patients’ health.
- Regular hand washing is not adequate to clean these items.

Literary Findings

Scrubs
- Pathogenic bacteria was found on all scrubs.
- Majority of the bacteria was found on pockets, pants, and shirts.
- Very little amount of bacteria was found on the area of the abdomen and the chest area.
- Literature found that there was no study that was able to clean the scrubs of all bacteria.

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

Cell Phones
- One article found that the cell phones used in the hospital were not sterile.
- The other two studies found that no pathogenic microbes were found on their phones.
- For these studies, their phones were found to have no pathogenic microbes before the phones were used.
- The research surface of these phones does not allow for the transmission of pathogenic microbes.

Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses’ Personal Items
- Center for Disease Control
- Paul Lecat et al
- American Journal of Infection Control, 42(8), 82-83.

Research Proposal
The research design will be a qualitative survey design and the instruments, created to assess the research goals. The demographics include: age, gender, length of time as nurse, length of time at current hospital, educational background, average hours worked per week, 12 or 24-hour shifts, do you work on more than one hospital, and duty.

Survey
- Medical-Surgical floors.

Prevention
- 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 and forearms for the recommended 1.5 minutes when you initially come on shift?
- Do you wash your hands for the 15-30 seconds in between patients’ rooms?

Cell Phone
- How confident are you, on a scale from 1 to 10, that your cell phone is germ free?
- Do you keep your cell phone on you while you are working on the phone?
- Do you bring your cell phone out while you are working?
- If yes, do you wash your cell phone for 5 minutes each time you use it?
- Approximately, how many minutes a shift is your cell phone out of your pocket?
- Do you wash your cell phone before and after using it?

Scrubs
- Are your scrub brought from home or supplied by the hospital?
- Do you use your own scrub or are the hospital supplied?
- Do you wash your scrubs at home?
- Do you wash your scrubs in between patients?
- Do you wash your scrubs in between patients?

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 do. In all of the literature reviewed 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 employees’ hands.

Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Dr. Palmer 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 me throughout my nursing school career.

References
- American Journal of Infection Control, 39(7), 555-559.
- American Journal of Infection Control, 40, 539-543.
- Wiener-Well, Yonit., et al. (2011). Nursing and physician attire as possible source of nosocomial infections.
- American Journal of Infection Control, 39(7), 555-559.