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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 in the USA and that 99,000 lives were lost due to these infections, with a high cost for hospitals. There was pathogenic bacteria found on all stethoscopes nurses used in the hospital by tests performed on pathogenic microbes. The other two studies found that no pathogenic microbes were found on the phones. The literature found that there was still a risk of transferring pathogens through their stethoscopes that they take home, and their cell phones. There is a need for isolation precautions to be adhered to because this study and previous studies found that nurses and other healthcare providers should be sanitized between patients, and their cell phones. There was evidence that stethoscopes are a potential risk for contamination, and literature found that it was not the scrubs that were the problem, but it was the hand hygiene compliance.

Literary Findings

**Scrubs**
- Pathogenic bacteria was found on all scrubs
- Majority of the bacteria was found on pockets (pants and shirts), area of the abdomen, and the rouch area
- Literature found that it was not the scrubs that were the problem, but it was with hand hygiene compliance

**Stethoscopes**
- There was pathogenic bacteria found on all of 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 ground for bacteria growth

**Cell Phones**
- One article found that the cell phones used in the hospital by nurses and pathogenic microbes were found on their phones
- For these studies, their phones were never to have no pathogenic microbes before they put them into their pockets
- If the crease surface of a new smart phones does not other microbes, it is easier to stick to the phone
- Literature stated that the cleanliness of the cell phones are determinate in the cleanliness of the employees' hands

Research Proposal
The research design will be a quantitative survey design and the instruments, created to test the hypotheses. This study’s population size for this study include: age, gender, length of time as nurse, length of time at current hospital, education level, background, 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 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 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?
  - What is your routine for your used uniform after your shift when you get home?
  - Are your scrubs brought from home or supplied by the hospital?
  - If yes, what do you use your cell phone for?
  - If no, what is your routine for your uniform or scrubs?

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 reviews 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.

References
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Problem Statement
- In 2002, nosocomial infections killed approximately 1.7 million people in the USA. This represents about 1.7 million of hospital-acquired infections per year in the USA.
- Nurses are in close contact with patients and pose the greatest risk to their patients’ health.
- Even if nurses are taking the standard precautions, there is still a risk of transferring pathogens 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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