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 2011, CDC stated that there were 721,800 nosocomial infections. Nurses are in contact most with patients and pose the greatest risk to their patients' health. In 2011, CDC stated that there was 721,800 nosocomial infections passed through nurses' personal items.

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 crotch area
- Literature found that it was not the scrubs that were the problem, but that it was hand hygiene compliance

Cell Phones
- One article found that the cell phones used in the hospital by nurses carried pathogenic microbes
- The other two studies found that no pathogenic microbes were found on their phones
- For these studies, there phones were never to have had any pathogenic microbes before the phones lived in the nurses pockets
- The smooth surfaces of new smart phones does not allow pathogenic microbes to stick to the phone
- Literature found that the cleanliness of the cell phones were inconsistent in the cleanliness of the employees' hands

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

Research Proposal

The research design will be a qualitative survey design and the instruments, created by the author of this study are: 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 in more than one hospital, and commute.

Survey

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hand washing</td>
<td>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? Then, do you wash your hands for the 15-30 seconds in between patients' rooms?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td>Are your scrubs brought from home or supplied by the hospital? If home, do you take your scrubs off as soon as you get home? Do you use your cell phone for work? If yes, what do you use your cell phone for? Do you wash your hands each time before and after touching your cell phone?</td>
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<td>Stethoscopes</td>
<td>Do you use clean your stethoscope in between each patient when you get home? Do you agree with the hospital protocols that your hospital has put forward? Do you bring your cell phone out while you are working? What is your routine for your used uniform after your shift when you get home? Do you wash your hands and forearms for the recommended 1.5 minutes when you initially come on shift?</td>
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Problem Statement

In 2002, nosocomial infections killed approximately 18,000 people in the United States. This represents about 1.7 million cases of hospital-acquired infections per year in the USA. Nurses are in contact most with patients and pose the greatest risk to their patients' health. Event hand hygiene is the standard precaution, 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.

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Acknowledgments

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References


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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. 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. 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.