



Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation Hand Hygiene



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Description

Hand washing or utilizing Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR) is essential when interacting with patients in a healthcare setting. Hand hygiene habits are defined as washing or using ABHR prior to going into the exam room and after leaving the patient encounter. In this survey, patients were asked to monitor the hand hygiene habits of healthcare providers and staff over the course of three months. Healthcare providers who were monitored included physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants dentists, and optometrists. Staff members are nurses and medical assistants.



What we Aim and Why it's Important

- **Our aim:**
 - We were looking to increase hand washing to 100% by the end of Cycle 3.
- Hand washing or utilizing Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR) is imperative in a healthcare setting because:
 - it reduces the likelihood for germs to travel
 - it helps prevent spreading of illnesses
 - it protects patients, healthcare providers, and staff
 - it forms positive habits

What We Did

- On three separate cycles, from October 2018 to December 2018, patients monitored healthcare providers/staff members and their hand hygiene habits via survey given by the check in staff at the front desk.
- After the baseline cycle, healthcare providers and staff were notified they were being monitored for hand hygiene techniques
- A free online course from the CDC was e-mailed to employees regarding hand hygiene after cycle 2, prior to cycle 3.
- The intervention included information about the significance of hand hygiene, directions on proper technique, and motivational interviewing.

Analysis

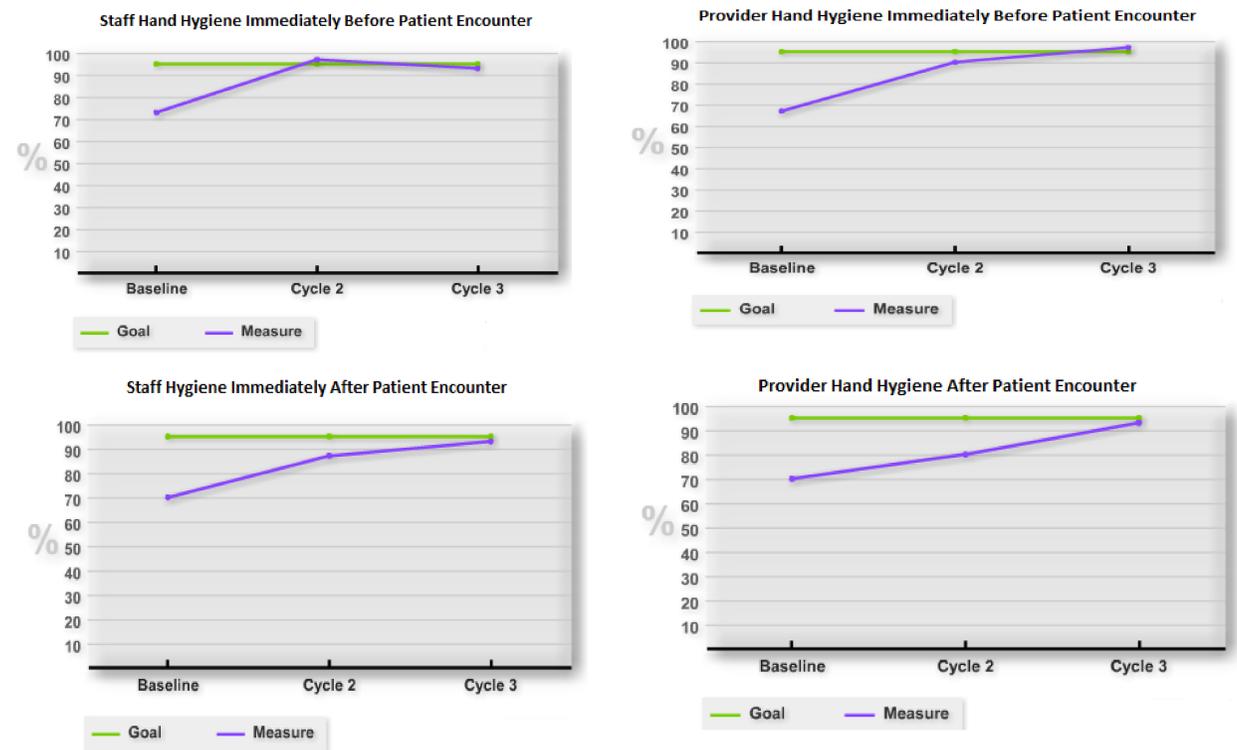
The intervention that showed most improvement was notifying healthcare providers that they were being monitored by patients via survey prior to cycle 2.

By cycle 3, both healthcare providers and staff were using proper hand hygiene techniques.

Results show that staff were more adherent than healthcare providers to hand hygiene during cycle 2.

Both providers and staff were more likely to use proper hand hygiene prior to patient encounter than after.

Results



Results: provider and staff hand hygiene goal versus measurement before and after patient encounter.

Conclusions

A task as simple as using ABHR before and after a patient encounter can decrease the spread of illnesses significantly. Notifying healthcare providers and staff about habits for surveillance is an effective, but short-lived intervention. This, combined with the online course provided by the CDC, helped Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation achieve 100% adherence by cycle 3. Interventions, such as this, are a positive step forward in establishing policies in healthcare settings. Increasing hand hygiene adherence will protect patients, as well as the individuals who work directly with them.

