

## Myths and facts about hand hygiene among healthcare personnel in the Dawadami Region of Saudi Arabia: A cross-sectional survey study

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### Introduction:

The outcome of patient care in healthcare settings is influenced predominantly by healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). Hand hygiene is the single most essential component in avoiding HAIs. The aim of the study is to evaluate the awareness and knowledge about hand hygiene among healthcare personnel in the Dawadmi Region of Saudi Arabia.

### Methods:

This cross-sectional survey study was carried out between May till September 2021. The tool (Questionnaire) was adopted from World Health Organization's Hand Hygiene Knowledge and Awareness Questionnaire (revised in 2009) and validated according to the CROSS (Checklist for Reporting of Survey Studies) checklist. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) using SPSS version 21.0 and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

### Conclusion:

This study has clearly shown the requirement of an in-depth appraisal of important issues of compliance and patient safety. Educational interventions to recognize the hand hygiene opportunities, improved availability of hand hygiene facilities, and multifaceted approach to tackle various barriers (poor attitude, workload, etc) of adherence are needed to be accorded priority.

### References:

1. Trampuz A, Widmer AF. Hand hygiene: a frequently missed lifesaving opportunity during patient care. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2004;79(1):109-116.
2. Haque M, Sartelli M, McKimm J, Abu Bakar M. Health care-associated infections - an overview. *Infect Drug Resist.* 2018;11:2321-2333. Published 2018 Nov 15.

### Result:

Variable	Frequency = n (%)
Profession	Residents 100 (33.33)
	Nurse 140 (46.67)
	Nursing assistant 60 (20)
Years of experience	≤ 5 123 (41)
	6-10 80 (26.67)
	11-20 77 (25.67)
	≥ 30 20 (6.67)
Previous training program	No 70 (23.33)
	Yes 230 (76.67)
Routinely use alcohol based hand rub for hand hygiene	No 50 (16.67)
	Yes 250 (83.33)

A total of 300 participants were randomly enrolled, 60 were nursing assistants, 140 nurses, and 100 residents, were enrolled in this study. With respect to years of experience in hand washing, 123 participants had 1-5 years (41%), 6-10 years (80%), 11-20 years (77%), and greater than 30 years of participation (6.67%). Concerning the education on hand washing and hygiene, training programs were attended by 230 participants (76.67%), and 70 participants (23.33%) did not attend the latest training program conducted by each institution. Most of them (83.33%) were using alcohol for hand hygiene.

S. No.	Items	Frequency n (%)
1	What is the most frequent source of germs responsible for healthcare-associated infections? The hospital environment (surface)	235 (78.33)
2	Which of the following hand hygiene actions prevents transmission of germs to the health care workers?	
	a. use of gloves	262 (87.33)
	b. use alcohol hand rubs	253 (84.33)
3	c. after exposure to the immediate surroundings of patients.	252 (84)
	In general, what is the impact of a healthcare-associated infection on a patient's clinical outcome? High	189 (63.33)
	What is the effectiveness of hand hygiene in preventing healthcare-associated infections? High	222 (74)
4	What factors prevent you from performing hand hygiene as recommended? Lack of time also being	191 (63.67)
	Lack of knowledge	223 (74.33)
	Did you receive formal training in hand hygiene in the last three years?	230 (76.67)
5	To what degree do you think there is a relationship between good hand hygiene practice and hospital acquired infections? Strong	174 (58)
	Do you feel that you can improve your compliance with hand hygiene?	241 (80.33)

