

A microscopic view of numerous blue, spherical cells, likely bacteria, arranged in a dense cluster. The cells are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

Health Care Associated Infections (HCAI) Improvement Programme Whittington NHS Trust Observations of Care

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Methodology

Six observers were invited into Whittington NHS Trust. A wide variety of areas were reviewed including A&E and Day surgery.

The tools utilised were the nationally recognised tools contained in Saving Lives and the DH Observational Hand Hygiene tool.

The number of patients on the wards varied considerably and therefore requires the detail of the results to be analysed with that in mind. In some areas there were insufficient opportunities available. Initial feedback was provided to ward areas, this was then collated to provide overall feedback to the Deputy Dipse and the senior nurse from the Infection control team.

Overall Themes

- Compliance with hand hygiene was very good and the trust should be commended on widespread compliance amongst all staff groups observed.
- Compliance with best practice on the care of IV cannulation was excellent across all elements with some scores of 100%. The main observation on cannulas was coverage of the site using tape, this should be addressed.
- Although the trust has not fully rolled out High Impact Intervention 6 on the urinary catheter care bundle, there was evidence of excellent compliance with best practice in this area.
- Overall excellent compliance with the bare below the elbows policy
- More attention to be given to ensuring the closure of Isolation doors at all times

Overall Themes(2)

- Design of Sluice location on Ricketts ward identified as a concern.
- Ambulance and other non trust staff to be challenged on compliance with Trust policies.
- The Housekeeper on Mercers ward demonstrated sound knowledge and was a good role model for the management of HAI prevention and control.
- The MAU was a good example of a unit taking the prevention and management of Hospital acquired infection seriously.
- Overall the general environment and the ward areas observed were found to be clean and well organised in line with what is expected to minimise risk of HAI.

Results

Ward	HH	PVC	UC	CVC	Comments
A & E	64%	Not observed	Not observed	N/A	17 opportunities 11 taken (3 nurses- ambulance staff wearing gloves and police officer.
Ricketts	52%	100%	Not observed	N/A	21 opportunities 11 taken (Nurses generally very good –poor compliance amongst medical staff) Excellent cannula care plans

Ward	HH	PVC	UC	CVC	Comments
Mercers	80%	Not observed	Not observed	Not observed	Increase Hand hygiene signage
Chemo Day unit	31%	Not observed	Not observed	Not observed	13 opportunities only 4 taken. More gel needed at bed spaces.
Ricketts	52%	Not observed	Not observed	Not observed	Cdiff Patients Isolation doors open Recent HH training. Good evidence of audit results.

Ward	HH	PVC	UC	CVC	Comments
Victoria	71%	100%	100%	N/A	Isolation doors open. All staff bare below the elbows
Cearns (Maternity)	54%	100%	Not observed	N/A	Ward rather cluttered. Need to address care plans and VIP scoring.
Coyle	50%	83%	100%	N/A	Lack of HH before and after gloves and between patients. (Hca's and Ahp's)

Ward	HH	PVC	UC	CVC	Comments
ITU	92%	100%	100%	Not observed	Inappropriate usage of gloves. Environmentally excellent.
Merrick Ward	87%	100%	100%	N/A	Environment excellent
Mary Seacole (MAU)	91%	77%	100%	N/A	Non compliant on dressing and site inspection elements.
Nightingale	74%	90%	100%	N/A	Environment very good. Pay more attention to commodes.