A Moment for Hand Hygiene in the Intensive Care Unit: How Can Compliance be Improved?
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Description

In order to improve hand hygiene (HH) compliance in Irish Intensive Care Units (ICUs), a complex intervention will be developed based upon a mixed methods approach, involving all stakeholders, focused on identifying:

- the barriers and facilitators to effective HH practices in the ICU and from a regulatory perspective; and
- appropriate intervention options, and the policies requirements necessary to support the implementation of the proposed intervention.

This research will provide direction to regulators, health service managers, and health service providers on ‘how’ standards can be achieved rather than only defining ‘what’ standards must be achieved.

Project Aim

To take a scientific approach to improving hand hygiene in the Irish health service. This research will provide valid and practical methods for improving hand hygiene compliance in Irish ICUs.

World Health Organization Five Moments of hand hygiene.

Part A. Develop an understanding of the current situation and identify barriers to HH compliance in Irish ICUs.

- Identify the level of compliance with, and barriers to, HH (on-going).
- Consolidate HH standards and policies (on-going).
- Evaluate the opinions of policy makers (on-going).

Part B. Develop an evidence-based and sustainable complex intervention.

- Systematic review of HH interventions (complete).
- Identify appropriate intervention options for improving hand hygiene compliance in Irish ICUs (not yet started).
- Identify a specific bundled intervention for improving hand hygiene compliance in Irish ICUs (not yet started).
- Identify the policies that are required to enable the proposed intervention to occur (not yet started).

Summary of Results

Understanding of the current situation with HH compliance in Irish ICUs.

- 505 observations of HH completed to date.
- 21 interviews conducted with ICU personnel.
- 6 interviews conducted with regulators.
- HH attitude questionnaire developed and distributed.

Developing an evidence-based intervention.

- Systematic review demonstrated that best practice for improving hand hygiene in ICUs remains unestablished1.

Final results expected summer 2019.

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