

Applying WHO hand hygiene initiatives into practice: is 100% achievable?

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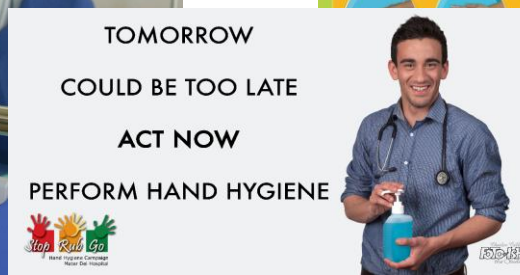
Introduction

- Healthcare facilities aim at reducing HAI by introducing strategies that ensure quality of care and safeguard patient safety.
- In 2010 Mater Dei Hospital launched officially the hand hygiene campaign with the logo ‘STOP, RUB and GO’.
- The campaign was designed on the WHO multimodal strategy,¹ which was based on the work of Pittet et al 2000.²

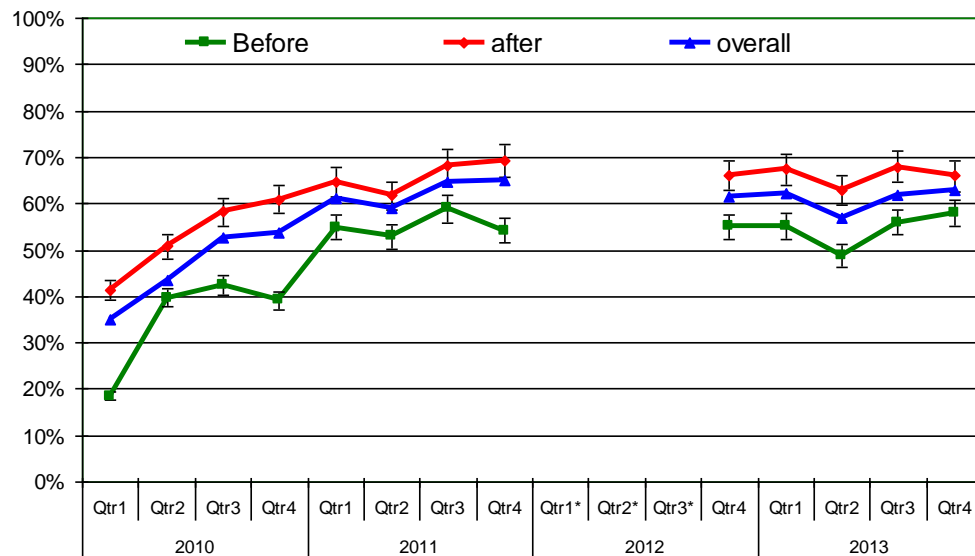
Application of WHO hand hygiene improvement strategy at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta:

The hand hygiene improvement strategy focuses on five objectives:

1. Reminders at the work place
2. Monitoring hand hygiene and feedback
3. Staff Training
4. System Change
5. Improving institutional safety climate

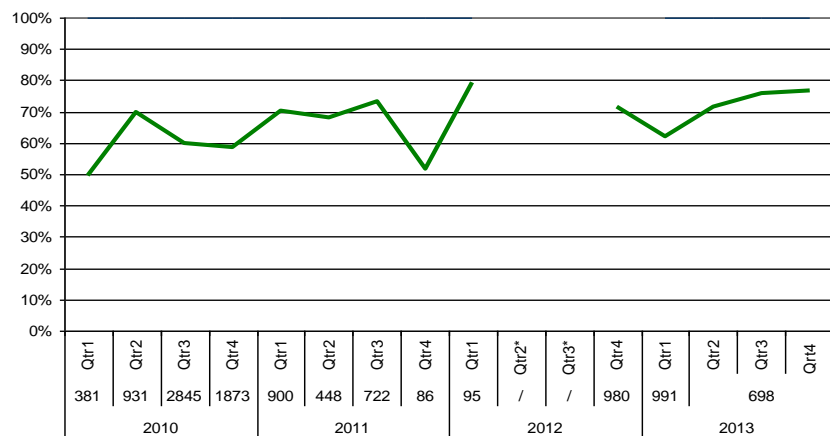


Results



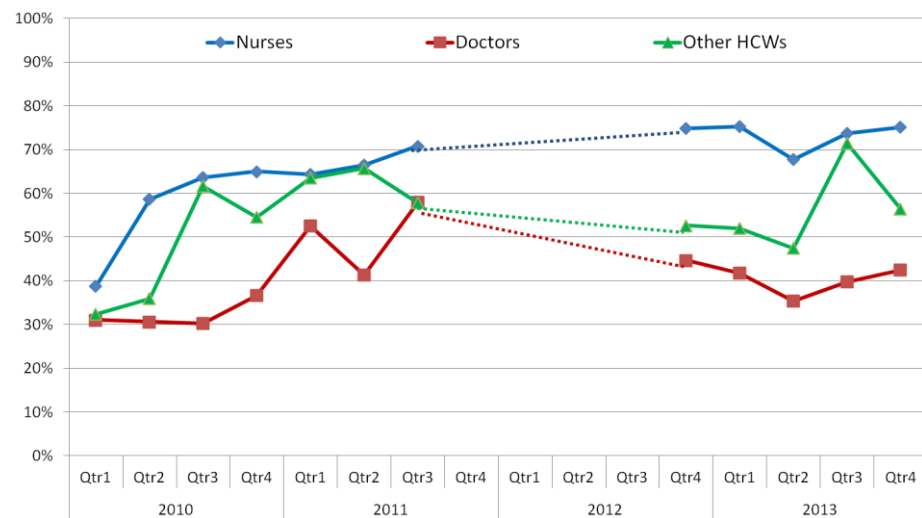
* not enough data for analysis

Figure 1: Hand hygiene compliance - overall, before



* not enough data for analysis.

Figure 3: Proportion hand hygiene opportunities undertaken with alcohol hand rub (AHR) per quarter from 2009 to 2013



* not enough data for analysis

Figure 2: Hand hygiene compliance - differences by professional groups.

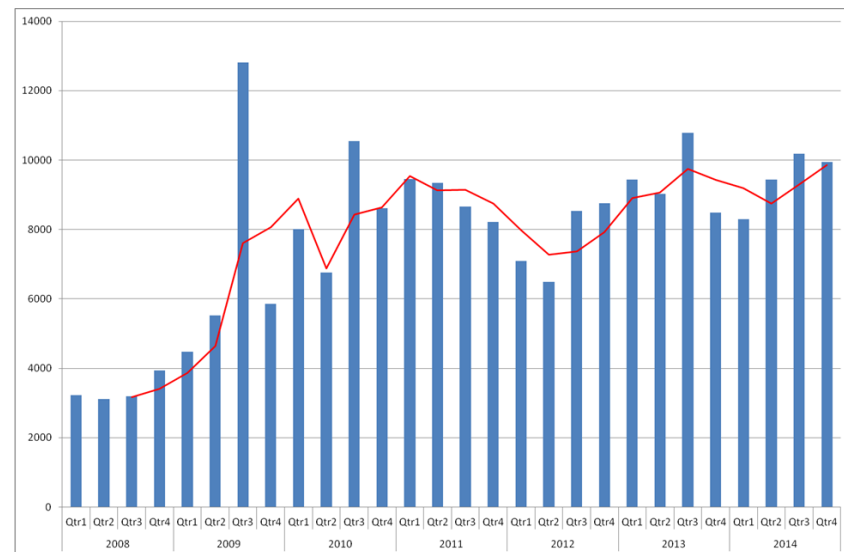


Figure 4: Alcohol Hand Rub (AHR) consumption 2008-2014

Conclusion

- Mater Dei Hospital has implemented an effective hand hygiene improvement campaign which doubled the level of HH compliance from its previous 30%.
- Several publications report compliance levels of 90% or more but these were invariably done by ward staff and their validity may be questioned.⁴
- We believe that these results, which have coincided with a significant reduction in MRSA bacteraemia incidence, were primarily achieved through an organisational culture change.
- Conducting audits centrally, together with feedback and top management intervention, increased accountability, especially among nurses.
- Compliance among doctors still remains unacceptably low.
- Our hospital aims to maintain, and improve, the results achieved by adopting a long term sustainability and promotion strategy, using continuation and reinforcement of core activities over time.⁶
- However we believe that expecting 100% is unrealistic and not cost-effective; indeed modelling studies also suggest it is likely to be unnecessary.^{7,8}

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