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NURSES' Leading the Mantra "Gel in & Gel Out": To Decrease the Organizations HAI

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NURSES' Leading the Mantra "Gel in & Gel Out": To Decrease the Organizations HAI

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Background

It is widely recognized that hand hygiene is an effective way of preventing infections (Musu et al., 2017). However, the challenge is ensuring interdisciplinary staff adhere to hand hygiene when entering and exiting patient rooms. An interdisciplinary team cares for patients and also can contribute to the spread of infections by poor hand hygiene. This project was necessary to ensure the safety of patients by decreasing Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI) through a "whole village" approach.

Project Goals/Objectives

The goal of the project was to improve hand hygiene compliance hospital wide through innovative and engaging strategies in order to decrease the Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI).

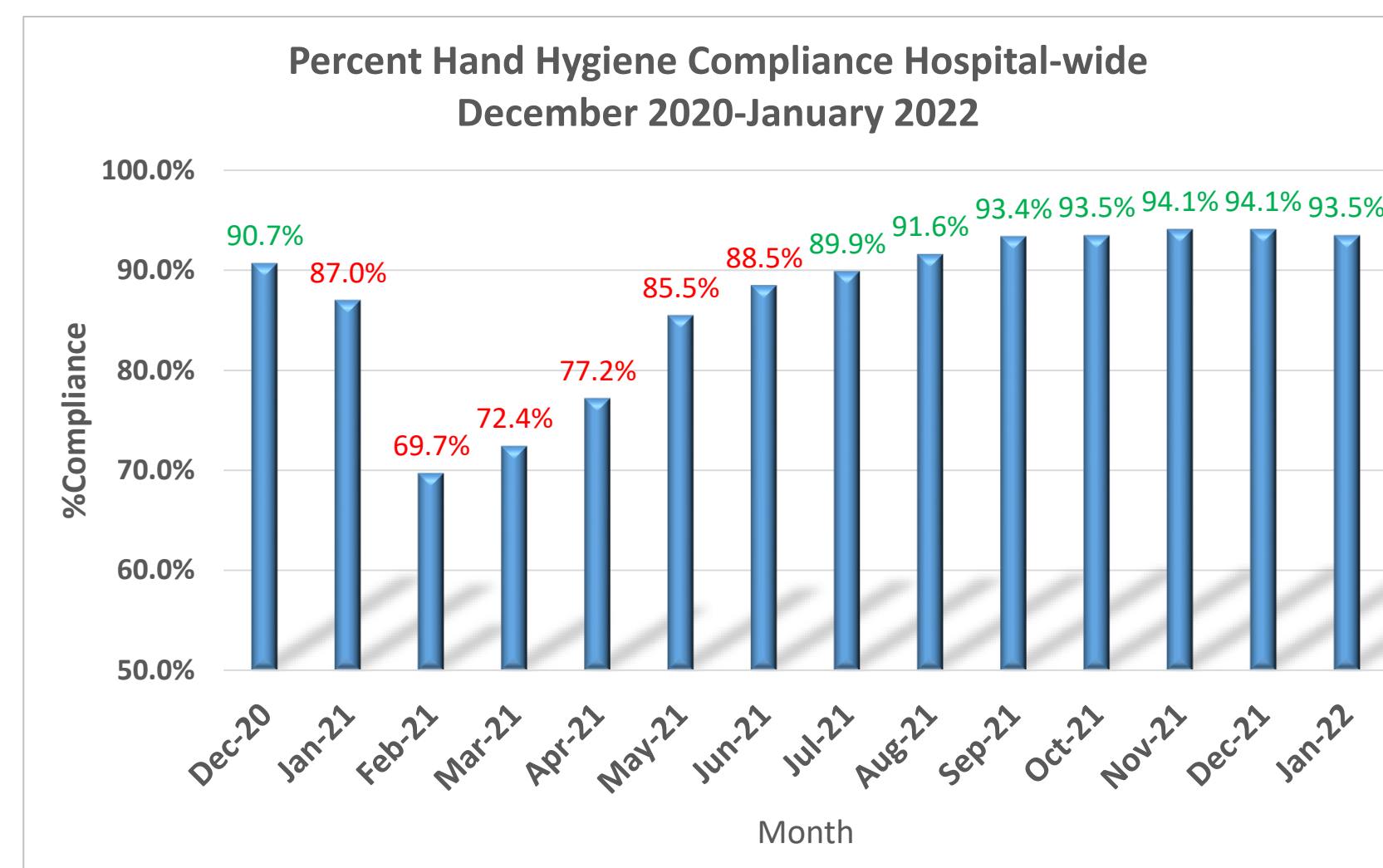
Methods of Implementation

- A collaboration advocated by Performance Improvement (PI) and Infection Control departments engaged the entire hospital in a Hand Hygiene (HH) campaign.
- HH education and return demonstration following Leapfrog guidelines was required for all staff.
- Communication, poster HH commitment signing conducted house wide.
- HH observers recruited & trained using the Targeted Solution Tool.

- An "It takes a village approach" was established: anyone, noticing an employee not "gelling in and out" or washing in and out upon entry or exit of a patient's room, had the responsibility to respectfully call out that employee by flashing the HH badge buddy.
- HH Compliance was also monitored and reported during tier huddles daily.



Outcomes



- Prior to the campaign, compliance was 69.7%.
- After implementation of the innovative strategies, compliance improved to 94%.
- Furthermore, after the campaign's completion, the hospital has sustained a high rate of HH compliance for over a year.
- This has resulted to 14%-40% reduction of the HAI such as CLABSI, CAUTI, MRSA & CDIFF.

Discussion

- Nurses leading the way in intentionally engaging the interdisciplinary team in innovative ways proved to be beneficial.
- Catch phrase like "gel in & gel out" serves as easy reminders to adhere to the HH protocol.
- Mass communication and Commitment signing are impactful. The impact of HH in decreasing HAI cannot be undervalued.
- The challenge remains on the percent of adherence
- Electronic surveillance favored over the arduous manual monitoring.
- Nurses, as patient safety advocates, need to intentionally engage all disciplines to do the right thing and "gel in & out".

References

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