

Hand Hygiene (HH)

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1. Introduction

In 2008 the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) instigated the National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI) and assigned its delivery to Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA). The VICNISS Coordinating Centre are responsible for coordinating the NHHI in Victoria. The primary purpose of the NHHI is to improve HH compliance among healthcare workers and to reduce the transmission of infection in health services throughout Australia. This involves a multi-interventional culture-change program to improve HH compliance via the increased use of alcohol based handrub¹.

2. Aims

- To provide ongoing education for healthcare workers on the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene program.
- To facilitate the accurate measurement of hand hygiene compliance at specified intervals during the program.
- To provide a report for the Department of Health on hand hygiene compliance in Victoria including overall compliance, compliance by healthcare worker category and compliance by Moment.

3. Methodology

As outlined in the [HHA Manual](#), hand hygiene compliance should be measured at specific intervals during the program, with the number of acute inpatient beds at each facility dictating the number of areas required to be audited and, the number of observations to be undertaken each time.

Training in the HH compliance assessment tool, data collection, data entry and data analysis is provided for all participating hospitals by VICNISS/HHA.

Data is entered into the [Hand Hygiene Compliance Application](#) (HHCApp) as per [Hand Hygiene Compliance System Instructions for Use](#). Data cannot be entered after the closing date for each audit period. Reports can be generated directly from this database at any time.

[Dues dates for data submission](#) are available on the VICNISS website.

Setting

All acute public hospitals must participate in the NHHI.

Requirements

In 2010/2011 the compliance benchmark was 65%. This is reviewed annually by the Department of Health.

4. Interpretation of Reports

Reports for your organisation can be generated directly from the HHCApp by your Organisation administrator. See pages 16-20 of [Hand Hygiene Compliance System Instructions for Use](#).

When your report is generated it spans across 3 pages, which can be accessed by the tool bar above the report.

Each report is for one audit period or specified date range.

Page 1 details the Overall Compliance Rate and the Compliance Rate by Moment.

Page 2 details the Compliance Rate by HCW.

Page 3 details the use of gloves.

HHA have provided a [MS Excel template](#) that can be used to compare your organisations HH Compliance data from previous audit periods.

5. References

1. Grayson M.L, Russo P, Ryan K, Bellis K, Havers S, Heard K, Simpson P, editors. Hand Hygiene Australia: 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene. Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care. Commonwealth of Australia, November 2010