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**Hand Hygiene Compliance in 11 hospitals of Argentina.
Findings of the International Nosocomial Infection Control Consortium (INICC).**

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BACKGORUND: Many peer-reviewed studies show that HHC significantly reduces hospital infections and mortality rates. Our objective was to evaluate the HHC so as to find differences between groups and activities.

METHODS: One health care worker per intensive care unit (ICU) observed the HHC of health care workers (HCW) before patient contact at 11 hospital ICUs and filled in a specially designed form table with the information he/she obtained. We analyzed the differences using Chi square test.

RESULTS: From 07/98 to 06/05 (8 years) we observed 26,058 patient contacts.

The overall HHC rate before patient contact was 54.4%.

Nursing staff (NS) (58.3%) vs. physicians (PH) (38.4%) (RR, 1.52; IC 95%, 1.43-1.62; P value: 0.000);

NS vs. ancillary staff (AS) (36.2%) (RR, 1.61; IC 95%, 1.50-1.73; P value: 0.000).

PH vs. AS (RR, 1.06; IC 95%, 0.97-1.16; P value: 0.20).

Women (56.7%) vs. men (48.5%) (RR, 1.17; IC 95%, 1.12 - 1.21; P value, 0.000);

Morning work shift (MWS) (52.0%) vs. afternoon work shift (AWS) (52.6%) (RR, 1.01; IC 95%, 0.97-1.05; P value, 0.58);

MWS vs. night work shift (NWS) (62.0%) (RR, 1.19; IC 95%, 1.14-1.24; P value, 0.0000).

AWS vs. NWS (RR, 1.18; IC 95%, 1.13-1.23; P value, 0.0000).

Superficial contact (53.2%) vs. invasive contact (56.9%) (RR, 1.07; IC 95%, 1.03-1.11; P value, 0.0001);

CONCLUSION: At the INICC hospitals members, NS over PH, NS over AS, women over men, NWS over MWS, NWS over AWS, and invasive contact over superficial contact are associated with significant HHC.