

WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands

SL: CYH Newsletter

Our call to action to health workers

8 February 2016

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Planning for 5 May 2016 – SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands global annual day of action

Safe Surgical Care SAVES LIVES: Clean Your Hands! – Prioritizing improvement of hand hygiene practices in all surgical services

The problem

Preventing infections and reducing an avoidable burden on health systems is still critical around the world today and is part of making sure every health-care setting is resilient and safer for treating every single patient. Surgical patients are frequently affected by health care-associated infections (HAI), in particular surgical site infections (SSI) and device-associated infections (e.g. catheter-associated urinary tract infection). Surgical site infections are a burden on every health-care facility as featured in this [WHO report](#) from 2011.

How the campaign supports solutions

Each year, the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign is structured around progressing the goal of maintaining a global profile on the importance of hand hygiene in health care and to 'bring people together' in support of hand hygiene improvement globally. Useful resources for this year's campaign (such as new publications, posters, web materials, etc) for 5 May 2016 will be posted on a dedicated web page leading up to 5 May, including an advocacy toolkit to be used by anyone taking part in the campaign. Information can already be accessed [here](#).

Improving hand hygiene practices in all surgical services through the continuum of care, from surgical wards to operating theatres, to outpatient surgical services, is the primary focus of 5 May 2016. Hand hygiene action is known to be the key measure in preventing all HAI and addressing the global burden of SSI has been identified by WHO as a specific priority for 2016. The first Global guidelines on surgical site infection prevention will be issued by WHO in 2016 and all of this work builds upon the goals of two previous WHO global patient safety challenges, *Clean Care is Safer Care* and *Safe Surgery Saves Lives*.

Considering the priority of hand hygiene improvement in a broader way, 5 May 2016 also aims to support the water, sanitation and hygiene agenda knowing that 35% of health-care facilities still do not have soap and water for [hand washing](#).

What you can do

- Get ready to use and promote a 5 May 2016 promotional poster, slogan and hashtag, key campaign messages, a new infographic on surgical site infections and their prevention, new educational posters on hand hygiene in relation to surgical interventions/care, and to join in key 5 May 2016 activities to be announced soon!
- Plan your own activities around the WHO campaign theme and post information in your newsletters, social media accounts and websites. If you feature the link <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/> WHO will acknowledge your work by providing a link to your web pages. Good luck!
- Look out for WHO announcements on the latest numbers of health-care facilities having signed up to the campaign (and continue to promote health-care facility campaign registrations [here](#)), as well as WHO reports on the 2015 global hand hygiene self-assessment framework and global consumer perceptions of hand hygiene surveys. WHO also supports Professor Didier Pittet's 5 May teleclasses which you can register for [here](#). So get the dates in your diary now!

An update on WHO infection prevention and control activities

For the first time in 2016, the global health community will come together to systematically review the evidence and experiences from different countries to develop recommendations on the "Core Components for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)". This builds on prior work led by WHO. These recommendations will outline a "model" (i.e. effective, efficient, safe, sustainable and cost-effective) for national and facility-level IPC programmes. The output of this work will be a WHO Recommendation Report that will assist countries in building their IPC capacity in addition to feeding in to the preparation of national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plans, and evolving work on the international health regulations (IHR), integrated people-centred health services (IPCHS) and quality universal health coverage (UHC).

Find out more about the Core Components work via the free WHO teleclass on **20 April 2016**: The Core Components for Infection Prevention and Control Programmes and Action Plan being presented by Julie Storr, WHO Geneva. Enroll for it [here](#).

Events and training information

The 16th Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control will take place from 16-19 March 2016 in Vienna. You can still book [here](#) to take part.

Free WHO teleclass (North America): 17 February 2016

'Successful implementation strategy for the prevention of surgical site infections', Prof Sean Berenholtz, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Join up [here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and attention to the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and other infection prevention and control improvement activities you are leading or participating in! Every little thing counts!

The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

Past information on SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands can be found in [previous newsletters](#) and on our [web pages](#).

Providing WHO information has to be balanced with available resources, both human and financial. WHO do their best to translate their most relevant tools and documents. Regretfully, we are not currently in a position to translate this SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands newsletter into French or Spanish. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and hope that you will remain a valued reader of the newsletter.

La délivrance d'informations provenant de l'OMS dépend des ressources disponibles, à la fois humaines et financières. L'OMS, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soin Propre est un Soin plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en francés o español. Le pedimos disculpas por cualquier inconveniente que podamos causarle, y esperamos seguir contando con su valiosa participación como lector de nuestro boletín.