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Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer Role Information

1. What does a Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer (HHPR) do?

- A HHPR observes staff performing the 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene (HH) while interacting with patients and their environment.
- HHPRs complete 20 minutes of HH audits each week on their unit.
- Observations are entered via an iPad/iPhone app or paper tool to submit into a database called the Clean Hands System. This database allows the site-based reviewer to generate a Unit Hand Hygiene Feedback Report monthly.
- The HHPR will share the monthly unit specific Clean Hands report with the unit manager which will assist in unit Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives.

Summary: As a site-based reviewer, your data will be used to improve patient and health care provider safety from the transmission of harmful organisms. You will also be encouraged to provide in the moment feedback to your colleagues when observing their interactions with patients.

2. Why is this role important?

- HH is the single most effective way to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).
- 8000-12000 Canadians per year die from HAIs, and HH improvements could reduce these rates by 30–50%.
- Literature suggests that health care providers are not always compliant with routine hand hygiene practices. Increasing hand hygiene compliance is an effective way to increase patient safety through a reduction in HAIs.
- HH education, training and reviews are Required Organizational Practices (ROPs) set by Accreditation Canada.
- In 2012 all BC Health Authorities implemented HH programs based on the ministry mandated provincial HH program. This included a standardized observation process where compliance rates are required to be shared publicly for both acute care and long-term care facilities.

Summary: As a site-based reviewer, you will become a partner of the Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) HH program and contribute to HH improvements by observing and collecting information on HH practices of health care providers and volunteers.

3. What is the time commitment?

- Approximate education time:
 - 60 minutes of pre-reading for the online education session
 - 60 minutes for the initial online education
 - 30–60 minute in-person education, observation, sign off sessions on the unit
 - Additional education/observation sessions may need to be booked as needed until the HHPR feels confident doing HH audits and is signed off.
- Once HHPRs are signed off, they are required to do 20 minutes of HH audits each week on their unit.
- HHPR need to schedule time to generate the HH reports from the clean hands system and meet with the unit manager monthly which will take approximately 60 minutes.

Summary: As a consistent site-based reviewer, you will make significant contributions to your local HH program and help meet Accreditation Canada requirements.

4. What are the benefits of becoming a Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer?

- Acquired leadership skills.
- Develop communication skills.
- Participate in QI opportunities.
- Gain experience in delivering adult education.
- Expand experience in contributing to patient safety.

Summary: As a HHPR you will have an opportunity for professional development to add to your resume and gain firsthand experience in Quality Improvement initiatives.

5. What experience should a Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer have?

- Anyone can become HHPR provided they work for Interior Health (IH) and are comfortable with using technology (e.g., iPad, MS Teams, email).
- Experience or understanding of the clinical environment is beneficial although not necessary.
- HHPR are expected to present themselves in a professional and approachable manner in accordance IH Values.

Summary: As a site-based reviewer you will have an opportunity to observe different patient interactions and develop a greater understanding of the patient care experience.

6. What additional knowledge, skills or abilities should a Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer have or be interested in developing?

- Understand and be a role model for proper HH practices to prevent the spread of disease in healthcare settings.
- Have a thorough understanding of the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene practices and how to apply them within the patient versus the healthcare environment. This information is provided in the HHPR education.
- Maintain patient confidentiality.
- Maintain staff confidentiality.
- The role requires standing and walking for 30–90-minute periods.

Summary: As a HHPR you will gain integral knowledge about the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene and how to apply them in various clinical settings.

7. What are the roles and responsibilities of a Hand Hygiene Peer Reviewer?

- Become comfortable with the Clean Hands System including the use of an iPad or paper tool to record HH observations.
- Observe and record colleagues as they interact with patients; this will include entering patient spaces and observing clinical procedures (e.g., dressing changes, portable x-rays, medication delivery).
- Generate and distribute Unit Hand Hygiene Feedback Reports to their supervisor/manager.
- Collaborate with the supervisor/manager to schedule 20 minutes per week for HH audits and to run unit HH reports monthly.
- Bring forward any challenges or barriers noted to supervisor/manager for follow up.
- Respond to emails from the IPAC program.
- Bring forward questions/concerns to unit Infection Control Professionals (ICP) or the HH lead for follow up.
- Provide constructive feedback to colleagues about their HH practices.

Summary: HHPR have a pivotal role in assisting in the prevention of healthcare acquired infections. As a HHPR you will enhance your communication skills through collaboration with your manager, your colleagues and your local IPAC team while working on the QI initiative.

8. What training is required?

Health care providers who are interested in becoming a HHPR should:

- Seek approval to begin training from their immediate supervisor/manager.
- Complete the HHPR education and sign off required to perform HH audits and run HH reports.
 - Pre-reading prior to attending the HHPR online education- approximately 1 hour.
 - HHPR online education- approximately 1 hour
 - In-person education, observation and sign off- approximately 30-60 minutes which may need to be repeated.
 - HHPR are required to pass a short test- approximately 15-30 minutes.
- Keep up to date with program information sent through emails, key messages or provided at forums.

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