



*Healthcare Risk-Quality-Safety, Simplified*

## **Hand-Hygiene Initiatives – What Really Works?**

Proper hand hygiene is recognized as one of the best ways to reduce and prevent healthcare associated infections, but long-term compliance is hard to come by in the healthcare industry. The problem could be that traditional strategies like awareness posters are outdated and have lost their effectiveness. To identify potentially more promising initiatives, a recent study from BMC Infectious Diseases looks at the views of senior hospital managers on hand hygiene. This group is often overlooked in terms of hand hygiene research, but senior hospital managers play a pivotal role into the design and execution of quality improvement programs and can offer a unique perspective on the matter.

From the study seven themes emerged:

1. Start the culture change with leaders
2. Refresh and renew the message
3. Connect the [WHO Five Moments for Hand Hygiene](#) to the whole patient journey
4. Improve measurements and share actionable performance results
5. Empower patients to get involved in the process
6. Redefine non-compliance – is it an error?
7. Increase disciplinary action

Read the study, [A qualitative study of senior hospital managers' views on current and innovative strategies to improve hand hygiene](#), to learn more about each theme.

### **Additional Resources:**

- *Becker's Infection Control and Clinical Quality* - [20 Hospitals with Great Hand Hygiene Programs](#)
- *Becker's Infection Control and Clinical Quality* - [5 Ways to Engage Hospital Staff in Hand Hygiene](#)
- IHI's [How-to Guide: Improving Hand Hygiene](#)
- The Joint Commission's [A Multifaceted Approach to Education, Observation, and Feedback in a Successful Hand Hygiene Campaign](#)

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