Background  
According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hand washing is the single most important procedure for preventing healthcare acquired infections. Up to 80% of all infections are transmitted by touch. 1 in 25 patients a day are affected by a hospital acquired infection. In a 12-hour shift, healthcare workers enter patient’s room over 100x a shift.

Purpose  
The purpose of this project was to improve the unit’s overall hand hygiene compliance. The hospital compliance standard is 93% and pre-intervention our unit’s compliance was as low as 82%.

Design & Methods:  
After brainstorming, the UBPC decided on four interventions that have not have not been attempted on our unit before.

- Educate bedside RN’s how to complete hand hygiene audit form and learn how to perform just in time coaching.
- Increase hand sanitizer replacement par level and educate staff on the process to refill empty dispensers.
- Improve visibility of hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Glow germ demonstration with staff indicating quality of hand hygiene.

Analysis:  
Hand Hygiene compliance was measured by using the hospital hand hygiene audit tool and by covert audits. Both of which were done by a variety of auditors.

Results:  
For the current fiscal year, the CTICU hand hygiene compliance rate increased from 82% to 90.6%. For the same time period, the average compliance score of 4 other units in the hospital is 86%, which is a gap of 4.6%.

Conclusions:  
Hand Hygiene compliance has improved by nearly 10% after implementing new interventions.

Further Study:  
What’s Next?
- Hand Hygiene compliance survey emailed to staff, and nearly 70% of surveys completed.
- Continue covert audits, rotating out auditors, increase number of auditor to help maintain accuracy and increase the total number of audits.
- Elimination of 5 workstation on wheels (WOW) noted to be blocking the hand hygiene dispensers with the goal being increased visibility and accessibility.

References:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2015)  
http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/surveillance/index.html

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Thank you to the CTICU UBPC and leadership for your hard work on this and many other projects with a common goal to improve our unit and patient outcomes.