



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY  
**HUNT SCHOOL *of* NURSING**

# DNP Project Proposal

Enhancing Nursing Knowledge of Patient Hand Hygiene

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# Problem Identification

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- **Significance**

- Studies indicate the infection rate of 1:25 in acute care settings.
- The telemetry unit had an infection rate of 1:19.

- **Background**

- Infection rates are higher with poor hand hygiene.
- Lack of patient hand hygiene may affect infection rates.

- **Needs Assessment**

- Nursing staff can empower patients by promoting and assisting patients to use the hand hygiene protocol.

# Theoretical Framework

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- Dorothy Orem's Self Care Deficit Theory
  - Wholly compensatory care
  - Partial compensatory care
  - Health education and counseling

# Literature Review

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- There is a connection between nursing knowledge of hand hygiene policy and changes in patient hand hygiene practice.
- The focus on prevention, self-care and improved access to health information (Ouschan, 2001).
- There is a need to improve patient hand hygiene. (Meyers and King, 2000).
- Hand hygiene protocols are in place for healthcare workers but not specifically for patients.

# Best Practice Selection

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- Nursing knowledge of patient hand hygiene improved patient education, implementation and understanding of patient hand hygiene practices (Boyce, 2012).
- Nursing staff education and hand hygiene policies translated to improved patient hand hygiene practices (Boyce, 2012).

Boyce, J., 2012. Guideline for hand hygiene in health-care settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force.

# Project Goals and Objectives

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- Goal: To reduce the infection rate on the telemetry unit by empowering patients to use hand hygiene practices
- Objectives/Outcomes:
  - Improve nurse knowledge of the hand hygiene policy
  - Improve patient hand hygiene practice

# Project Design

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- Key stakeholders included the registered nurses on the telemetry unit.
- Partnered with unit manager
- Educational forum sessions to discuss current hand hygiene policy
- Nurses assisted patients with hand hygiene during hospitalization
- Face-to-face survey with discharged patients

# Hand Washing Protocol Education Survey Tool

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1. Did you have regular hand washing habits at home prior to your hospital admission?
2. Did you receive education in the form of a handout or verbal on how and when to wash your hands?
3. Were hand washing supplies made available and within reach at all times during your hospital stay?
4. Did the nursing staff ask each shift if you had washed your hands or needed additional hand washing supplies?
5. Has your hand hygiene improved after you received education?

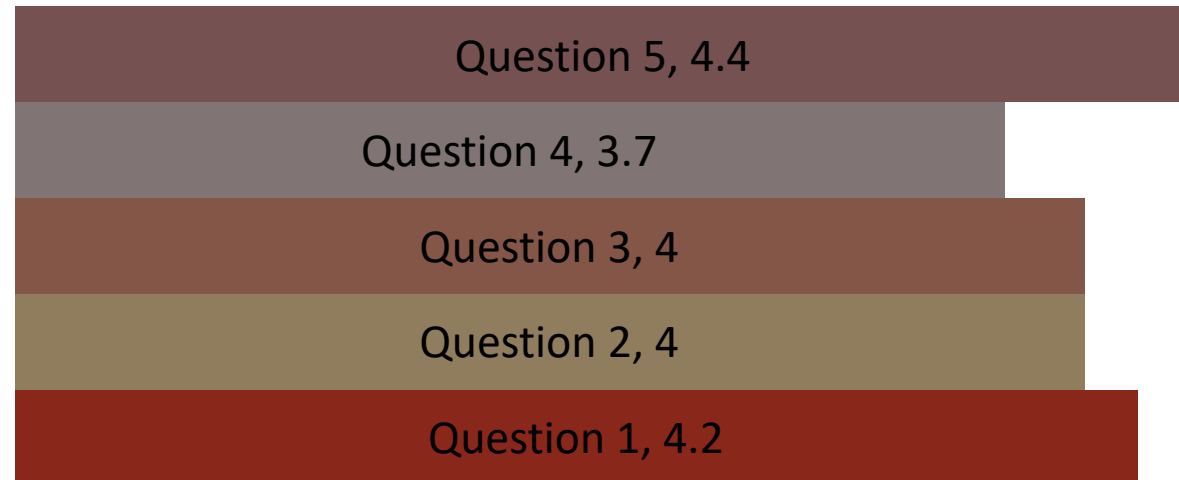


# Outcomes

## Average Response to Questions

Lickert Scale used : Always, Sometimes, Often, Rarely, Never

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# Conclusion

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- Most people are not washing their hands. Implications for practice understand and utilize the current hand hygiene policy to empower patients, improve infection rates and patient outcomes.
- Future recommendations:
  - ongoing instruction of hand hygiene policy for staff and patients
  - hand hygiene policy in on boarding new employees
  - providing newly admitted patients hand hygiene
  - providing easy access to hand hygiene supplies for all patients
  - provide an information sheet on hand washing at home when discharged

# Acknowledgment

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- Project chair: Dr. Kellie Griggs, DNP, RN
- Practice partner: Tammy Eifrd, BSN, RN
- Director of Research: Dr. Gloria Walters, PhD, RN

# Visual Reminder For Patient



# References

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