

Hand hygiene- relaying the message at five hospitals in Sydney Southwest Local Health District (SSWLHD), 2017.

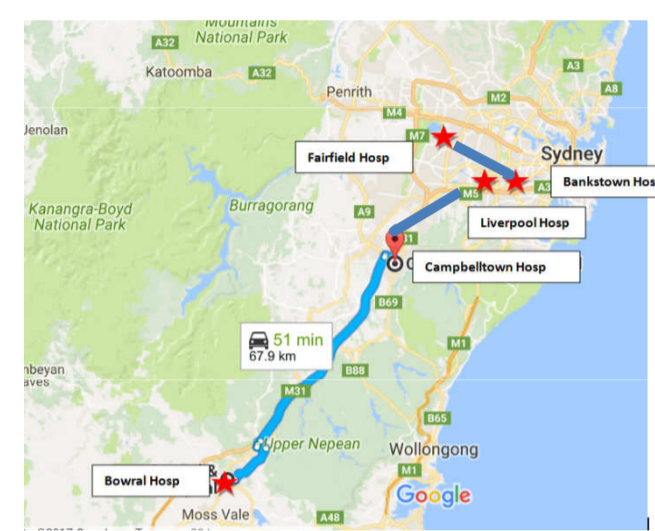
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Introduction

Hand hygiene is the cornerstone of infection prevention. The WHO calls for hand hygiene promotion on 5th May every year. In response, we organised a District wide hand hygiene relay covering Liverpool, Bankstown, Fairfield, Campbelltown and Bowral hospitals in 2017. This is the first time we had a joint hand hygiene event. Our aim was to raise the awareness of the importance of hand hygiene across these hospitals.



Methods



The Infection Prevention Network (IPN) initiated meetings to engage all Infection Prevention CNCs at five hospitals to call for support to run the WHO relay of hand hygiene. The IPN identified key stakeholders at the district and at each facility to increase the chance of a successful relay.

The IPN consists of Infection Control Practitioners, a Secretary, a Medical Microbiologist and an Epidemiologist.

The IPN invited the Chief Executive of SSWLHD, Ms. Amanda Larkin, to be the Hand Hygiene Patron for the relay. The IPN worked collaboratively to share ideas and logistics in preparation for the relay. A checklist was developed to guide the progress of the relay at each hospital. This included ICPs to invite their hospital's General Manager; getting sponsors for hand gel; printing posters in advance to sensitize healthcare workers of the relay; format of the relay.

Each hospital's ICP took the checklist to develop their local version of the relay.

Results

The relay started at Fairfield Hospital and finished at Bowral Hospital. In a total of 12 hours, the SSWLHD hospitals achieved 1951 moments of hand hygiene in first week of May 2017.

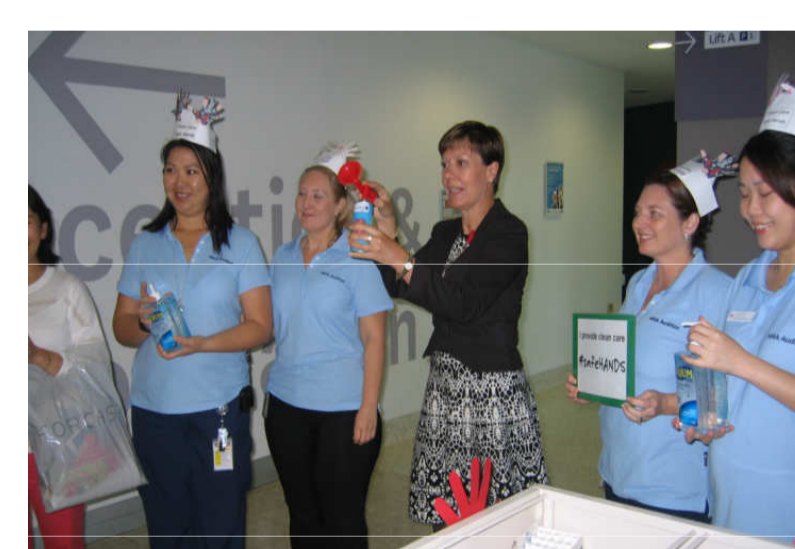
Hospital	No. of moments	Hours
Fairfield	300	1.5
Liverpool	901	5.5
Bankstown	271	1
Campbelltown	262	2
Bowral	217	2
District	1951	12



Chief Executive



Liverpool



Campbelltown



Fairfield



Bankstown



Key features at each hospital

- Liverpool: ward-to ward hand hygiene ambassador
- Bankstown: hand hygiene guerrilla
- Fairfield: Elvis Presley impersonator & community ownership
- Campbelltown: ward-to-ward hand hygiene ambassador
- Bowral: consumer participation

Tips to run a relay

- Blessing from the top executives is crucial for the success.
- Medical champion and Nursing champion.
- Community participation and ownership.
- Give enough time for preparation & sensitization of the campaign.

Conclusions

The hand hygiene relay in 2017 raised the political commitment at senior executives and awareness of the importance of hand hygiene among healthcare workers at five hospitals in SSWLHD. The Infection Prevention Network planted this precious seed to nurture a stronger hand hygiene culture in our district for the years to come.