

## **WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**

**SL: CYH Newsletter**

***Our call to action to health workers***

**1 July 2016**

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### **An update on WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign reach**

As of 29 June 2016, 19 002 health facilities from 177 countries have registered for the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign. This means that even more health facilities around the world are demonstrating their commitment to hand hygiene improvement every year. More information [here](#).

### **Announcing a new hand hygiene campaign toolkit for you!**

A hand hygiene campaign toolkit has been launched on the WHO web pages. This is an excellent new resource aimed at all health care workers who plan to undertake hand hygiene campaign activities on or around 5 May every year. It provides a framework for advocacy, as well as guidance on how to develop campaign materials at the local level each year. It's never too early to start planning your campaign activities, so make good use of this toolkit any time of the year. Find the new toolkit [here](#).

### **Available for you now on the WHO web pages: Hand hygiene improvement does not stop at 5 May!**

All WHO hand hygiene resources can be accessed [here](#) for your on-going use.

This month's feature is the [WHO hand hygiene technical reference manual](#).

Too often we still encounter debate on the accuracy of hand hygiene compliance reports as well as mis- or lack of understanding regarding the right times for hand hygiene action in support of patient safety. This manual provides a practical explanation of the different moments for hand hygiene and ensures that reliable monitoring can take place. Use this as part of your multimodal improvement efforts if you haven't already done so.

### **Update on a WHO policy brief “How to expand access to affordable hand hygiene products to prevent health care-associated infection and reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.”**

This policy brief, recently issued for consultation, is aimed at decision-makers in those ministries responsible for the procurement of medicines and other materials essential to basic health care

system functioning. It provides background evidence and information, as well as policy options. The wide range of responses received during the consultation period are being analysed and a summary response to these will be issued, alongside the finalized policy brief, in July 2016.

### **WHO IPC update - WHO Surgical site infection (SSI) prevention guidelines**

The WHO SSI guidelines will be issued later this year. To inform these guidelines, scientific evidence was synthesized using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach and WHO convened four guideline development committee technical consultations between June 2014 and November 2015 to formulate and approve the recommendations based on the evidence profiles. The technical consultations led to the adoption of 29 recommendations covering 23 topics. The guidelines consist of a core section with a chapter on each recommendation, divided into subsections according to the recommendation's application in the pre-, intra- and/or postoperative periods. This is preceded by a section covering the other important issues in the approach to SSI prevention which did not form recommendations as such, but about which the users should be fully aware. A summary of the main existing national guidelines on SSI prevention is also provided. Alongside the guidelines, WHO is working with an expert group to issue an associated implementation strategy and toolkit.

### **Special focus on water, sanitation, hygiene and health (WSH) work at WHO**

WASH is an essential component of infection prevention and control (IPC), which in turn is essential for providing quality and safe health services. The WASH unit at WHO has been working in close collaboration with IPC colleagues on a number of initiatives to support this important link. Providing WASH inputs into IPC guidelines and seeing their implementation and monitoring are two ongoing collaborations. In addition, WHO and UNICEF have developed the *Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool* (WASH FIT), a risk-based approach to managing water, sanitation and hygiene in support of IPC practices in health care facilities. The tool provides a framework for facilities to prioritize, implement and maintain essential services, and can be adapted to suit the local context and needs. To date, the tool has been implemented in Chad (with a focus on Cholera), Liberia (focusing on Ebola) and Mali. In early June 2016, a three-day regional workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal, with eight countries from western and central Africa. Each country drafted an action plan to address WASH in health care, with special attention being put on integrating WASH with IPC and quality of care initiatives. Further details of the tool can be found in the Resources section in this [knowledge portal](#).

### **WHO AMR update**

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health today. It can affect anyone, of any age, in any country. WHO is leading a global campaign entitled "Antibiotics: Handle with care", to increase awareness and understanding of this urgent problem among the public, policy-makers, as well as health and agriculture professionals. As part of the campaign, we are looking for patients and health workers to share stories of how they have been affected by antibiotic resistance. If you would be willing to share a story from your setting, in the form of a photo and quote in order to help people around the world understand the seriousness of this problem and what can be done about it, please contact WHO at [waaw@who.int](mailto:waaw@who.int).

## Events and training information

- The IPS 2016 conference takes place on 26-28 September, in Harrogate, England. At this event the IPS "Torch Tour", aiming to highlight the importance of hand hygiene will culminate. More information [here](#).
- The ICAN 2016 congress takes place from 25-28 September in Johannesburg, South Africa. Key international presentations will be made including from Professors Benedetta Allegranzi and Didier Pittet. More information [here](#).
- World Sepsis Day is 13 September 2016. More information [here](#).
- World Antibiotic Awareness Week is in November and more information will soon be available [here](#).
- Forthcoming free Webber teleclasses – [register here](#).
  - 14 July: Results of qualitative research on implementation of infection control best practice in European hospitals. Dr Hugo Sax, University Hospital, Zürich.
  - 21 July: Behavioural and organizational determinants of successful infection prevention and control interventions. Dr Enrique Castro-Sanchez, Imperial College, London.
  - 18 August: Use of hypochlorite in health care facilities. Professor William Rutala, University of North Carolina Hospitals.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and attention to the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and other infection prevention and control improvement activities you are leading or participating in!

**There will now be a break and the newsletter will return in the fall/autumn.**

## The WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit Team

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

Past information on SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands can be found in [previous newsletters](#) and on our [web pages](#).

Providing WHO information has to be balanced with available resources, both human and financial. WHO do their best to translate their most relevant tools and documents. Regretfully, we are not currently in a position to translate this SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands newsletter into French or Spanish. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and hope that you will remain a valued reader of the newsletter.

La délivrance d'informations provenant de l'OMS dépend des ressources disponibles, à la fois humaines et financières. L'OMS, comprenant l'équipe "Un Soin Propre est un Soin plus sûr", fait de son mieux pour traduire ses outils et documents les plus importants. Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas actuellement en mesure de traduire la lettre d'information mensuelle de SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en français et en espagnol. Nous nous excusons pour ce désagrément et espérons que vous resterez un fidèle lecteur de la lettre d'information à l'avenir.

La información generada por la OMS, depende de los recursos humanos y económicos disponibles. El Programa, y el equipo de la iniciativa "Cuidado Limpio es Cuidado Seguro", realizan sus mejores esfuerzos para traducir el material y documentos de mayor importancia. Desafortunadamente, por el momento no contamos con la facilidad de traducir el boletín mensual SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands en francés o español. Le pedimos disculpas por cualquier inconveniente que podamos causarle, y esperamos seguir contando con su valiosa participación como lector de nuestro boletín.