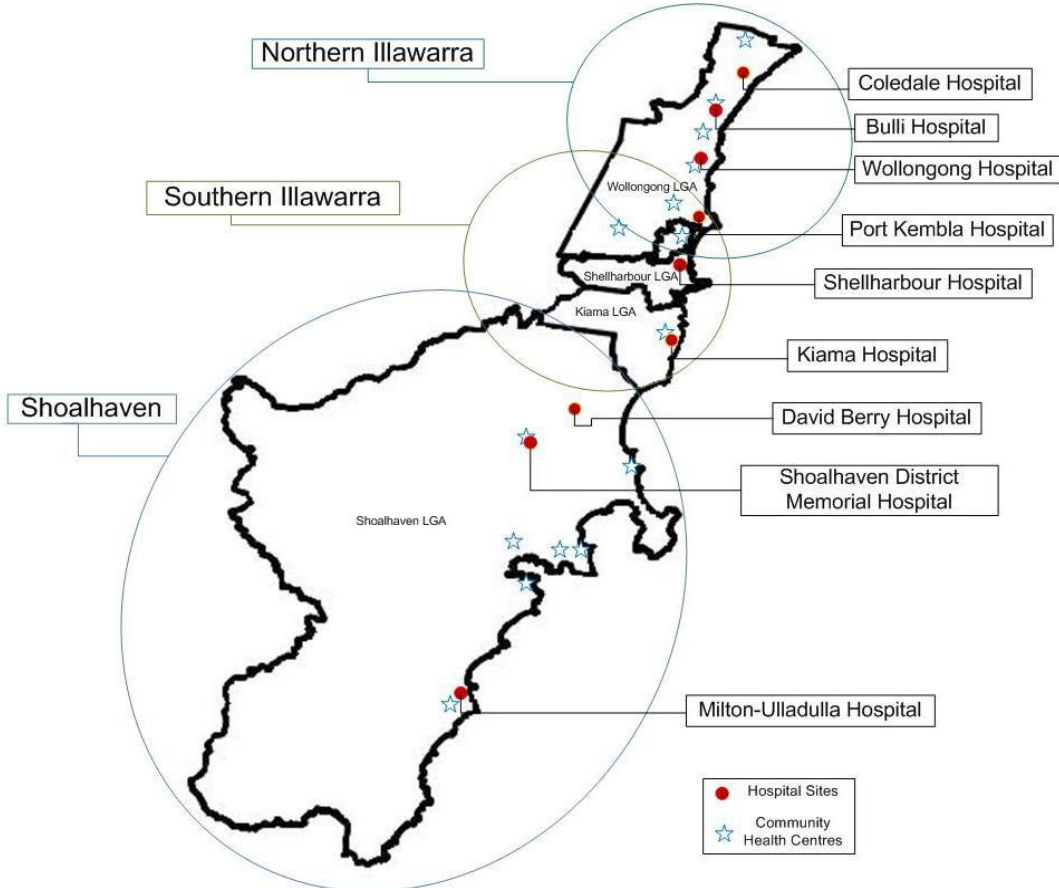


Physiotherapist Adherence to Standard Precautions: Knowledge and practice

Sam Agars Physiotherapist
Megan Brown CNC IMACS
ISLHD
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Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District



2 hours south of
Sydney



Population of
390,000



ISLHD workforce
7,300 across
nine hospital
sites



The Team

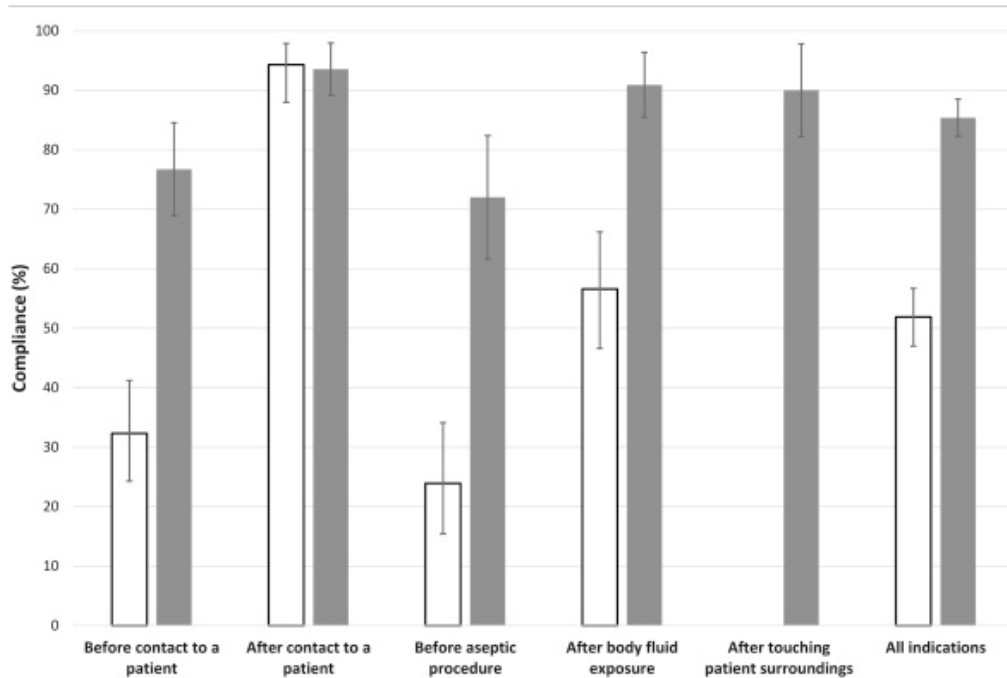
22 Inpatient physiotherapists on an average day



Introduction

- Standard precautions are the cornerstone of infection prevention and control
- Compliance with standard precautions minimises the risk of healthcare associated infections and colonisation with a MRO

Glove misuse and impact on hand hygiene



Alexia C et al, 2015

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Fig 2. Hand hygiene compliance for all observed indications in the care of patients on contact precautions before (2009, white bar) and after (2012, grey bar) eliminating mandatory glove use. Error bars indicate 95% confidence interval.

Glove misuse and impact on hand hygiene

‘The rate of hand hygiene compliance with glove use was 41.4%’ (Fuller C et al, 2011)

‘hand hygiene compliance before wearing gloves is poor among nurses who work in intensive care units was 14.8%’ (Ghorbani A et al, 2016)

Contamination of HCW clothing

Table 4. Nurses, HCWs, and Other Workers' Uniform Contamination (N = 115).

Specialty (n)	No growth of microorganisms		Growth of microorganisms		χ^2 (p)
	n	%	n	%	
Nurses (58)	12	20.7	46	79.3	24.87 (<.001)
Physicians (20)	3	15	17	85.0	
Respiratory therapist (14)	5	35.7	9	64.3	
Students (17)	5	29.4	12	70.6	
Housekeepers (6)	0	0.0	6	100	

Note. HCWs = health care workers.

What are ISLHD Standard Precautions

Traditional Standard Precautions

- 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment use
- Gloves for blood and body fluids only
- Cleaning all equipment before and after use
- Regular environmental cleaning
- Appropriate waste management
- Storage controls of clean linen

ISLHD Standard Precautions

- 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene
- **Disposable apron use for close contact with all patients**
- Gloves for blood and body fluids only
- Cleaning all equipment before and after use
- **Regular environmental cleaning, including the use of ChlorClean™ for bathrooms and toilets and all beds on discharge**
- Appropriate waste management
- Storage controls of clean linen
- **Risk assess single room**

Appropriate Glove use

- When contact with blood and body substances is anticipated
- For example
 - wound care
 - accessing a drain/catheter
 - assisting with toileting
 - incontinence management
 - trauma

Appropriate Apron use

- For all direct contact with a patient
- To protect from blood or body substance exposure
- Prevents transmission from HCWs clothing to environment

Why?

- Consistent implementation of standard precautions reduces that risk of healthcare-associated transmission of infection.
- If we get it right all the time then patients/clients are safer all of the time

The Issue

Allied Health practitioners, specifically physiotherapists (PT), have significant contact with patients across various clinical areas and subsequently have an important role in the prevention of infection.

Project Aim

To determine if the PTs knowledge base of ISLHD
Standard Precautions was reflected in daily practice

- Survey
- Observational Audit

Definitions

- Minimum assist
- Close body contact

Methodology

SP knowledge was gathered via a written quantitative survey

- Key questions in the survey were;
 - Standard Precautions definition
 - What PPE is required if you mobilise a patient requiring assistance?
 - Can gloves replace the need to perform hand hygiene
 - Are aprons readily available on the ward you work on?

Observational Audit Tool

- Observational audit was completed on PT engaged in patient contact.
- Key questions in the audit were;
 - is there direct patient contact,
 - is the PT using a plastic apron,
 - is there potential contact with blood and body substances,
 - is the PT wearing gloves.

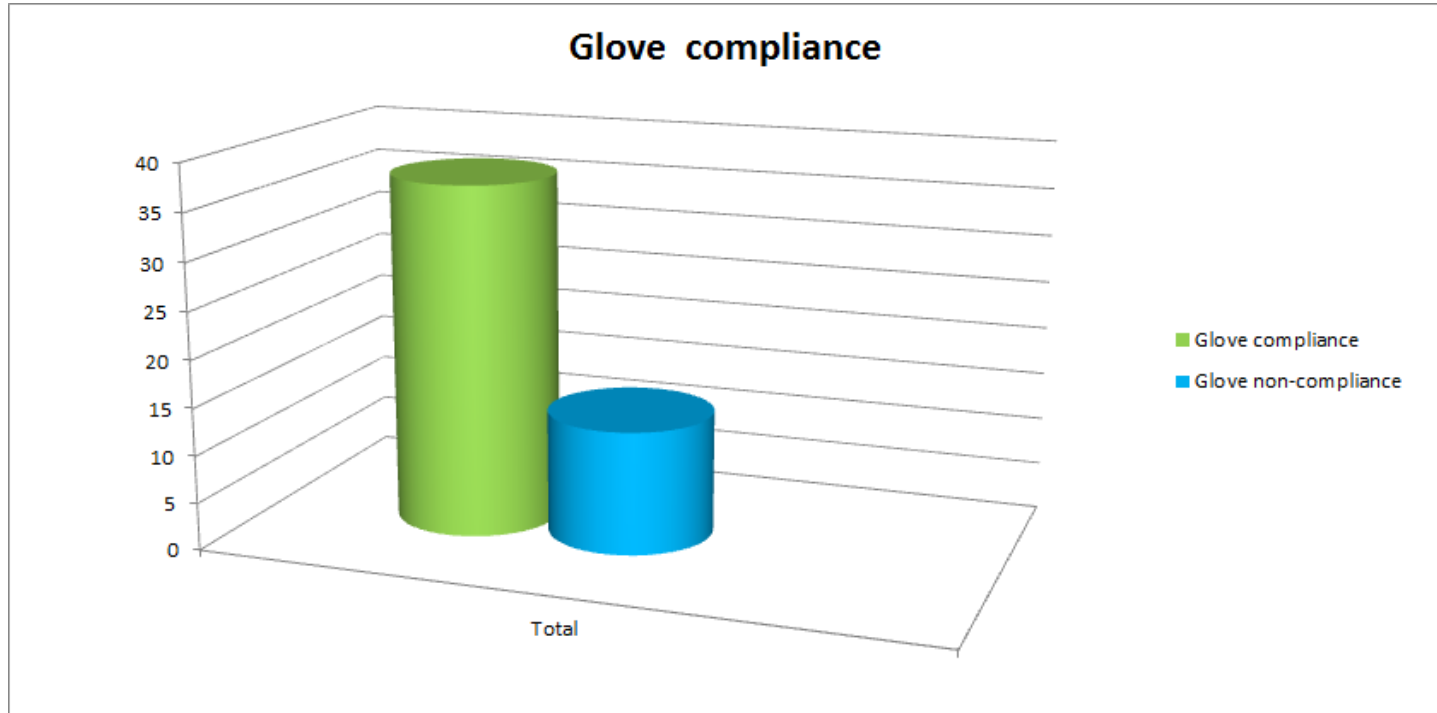
Results

- 22 PTs surveyed
- 95% demonstrated a sound theoretical knowledge of SP.
- 100% agreed gloves did not replace HH
- 72% use an apron for assist x 1
- 72% use gloves appropriately
- 81%- aprons are readily available

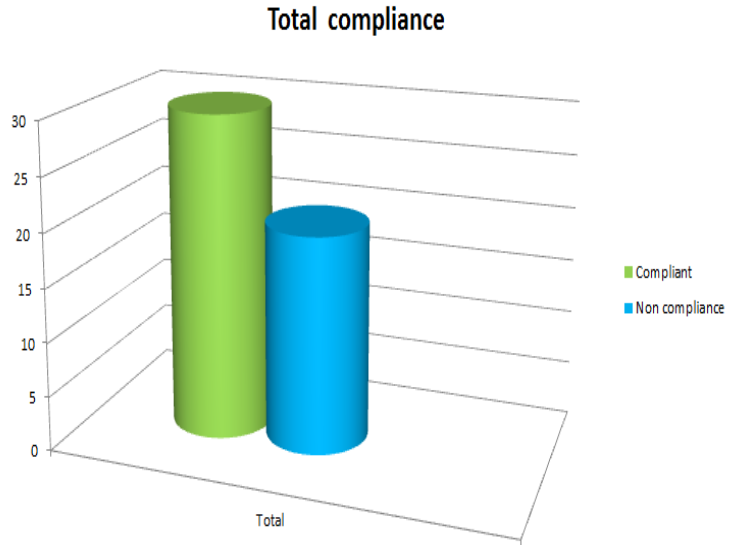
Apron Compliance



Glove Compliance



Total Compliance



Apron compliance	Glove compliance	Total compliance
86%	74%	60%

A plastic apron for close personal contact with ALL patients
Gloves only for blood and body fluid exposure

Before



After



Where to from here

It is expected that the results of this project will inform future education strategies and projects to strengthen the practice of standard precautions in the Physiotherapist group

References

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