Determinants of Noncompliance with Hand Hygiene Prescriptions: A Pilot Study in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Nurses.

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**Background:** Despite optimal environmental conditions and multiple publications underscoring the efficacy of good hand hygiene practice in reducing nosocomial infection rates, compliance with hand hygiene prescriptions in ICU's is unacceptably poor (50-60%). Behavioural determinants of this observation have never been explored. The objective of this study is to identify determinants of noncompliance with hand hygiene prescriptions among nurses in a general ICU.

**Methods:** A questionnaire with the aim to identify determinants of noncompliance was developed and validated. This questionnaire takes into account self-reported compliance, as well as items regarding attitude towards hand hygiene, social influence, self-efficacy and general knowledge concerning hand hygiene practice. The relationship between seven behavioural determinants and the compliance rate was assessed by means of multiple linear regression analysis.

**Results:** Response on the questionnaire was 73% (n=108). The self-reported compliance rate was 84%. A low self-efficacy proved to be independently associated with noncompliance (Beta coeff.: 0.379; P=0.001). After exclusion of this variable, a negative attitude towards time-related barriers was associated with noncompliance (Beta coeff.: -0.147; P<0.001). No associations were found between a good theoretical knowledge, social influence and moral perceptions towards hand hygiene practice.

**Conclusions:** Self-efficacy and attitude towards lack of time are the utmost important behavioural determinants concerning noncompliance with hand hygiene prescriptions.

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