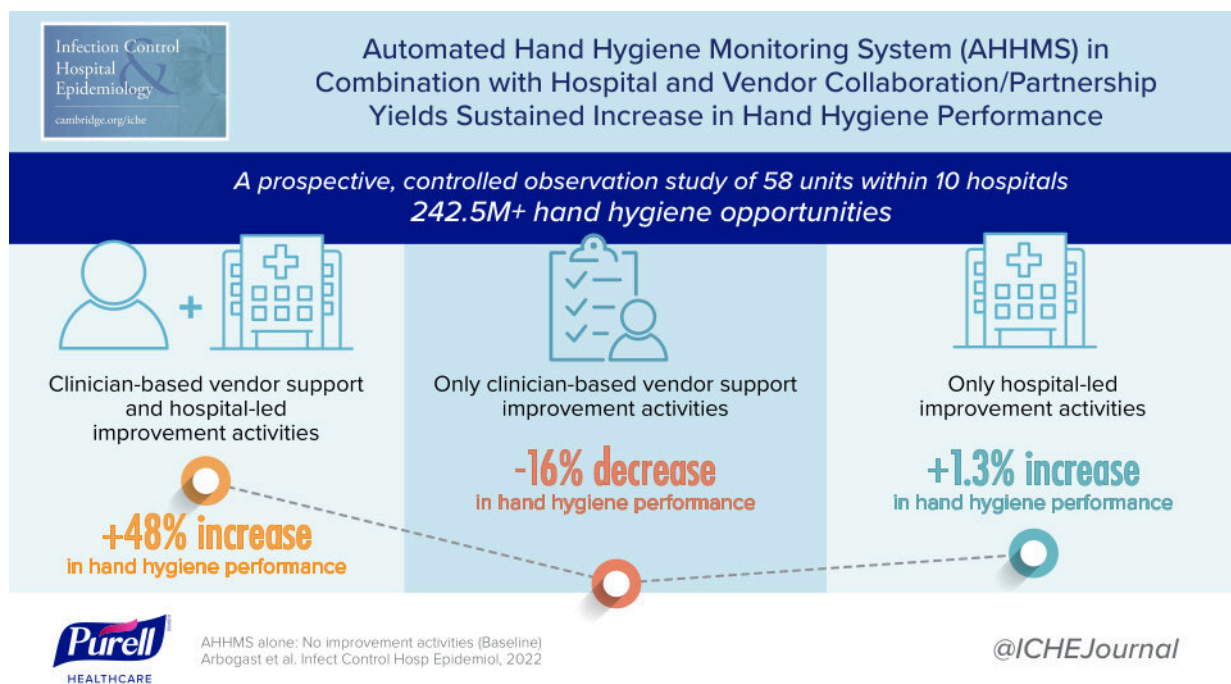


Study finds hospital hand hygiene performance rates improve the most when facilities partner with their AHHMS vendors

September 8 2022



Graphical abstract. Credit: *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* (2022). DOI: 10.1017/ice.2022.141

A new study by researchers at GOJO Industries, recently published in the journal *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (ICHE)*, demonstrates health care facilities that actively partner with their

automated hand hygiene monitoring system (AHHMS) vendor are able to achieve greater improvement in hand hygiene performance—a backbone of infection control programs.

"With data from 58 units in 10 hospitals throughout North America—243 million hand [hygiene](#) opportunities—this study makes an important contribution to understanding hand hygiene performance-rate improvement efforts," said Jim Arbogast, Ph.D., the lead author of the study and Vice President of Hygiene Sciences and Public Health Advancements at GOJO Industries. "The evidence is clear that clinician-based support from their AHHMS vendor is a critical component that hospitals can't overlook in their hand hygiene performance efforts. Health care facilities shouldn't install an AHHMS and forget about it."

The study was published online on August 22 in *ICHE*. Hand hygiene performance rates were estimated using the PURELL Smartlink Activity Monitoring System and showed greater sustained increases in hand hygiene performance when the hospital worked in collaboration with the vendor to implement the system and initiate complementary improvement interventions. Major findings of the study include:

- AHHMS in combination with clinician-based vendor support and [hospital](#)-led unit-based initiatives (Vendor + Hospital group) led to statistically significant improvements in hand hygiene performance compared with the Vendor-only, Hospital-only, or AHHMS-alone groups (>46% increase; *P*
- Hospital units in the Vendor-plus-Hospital group achieved a 76% increase in hand hygiene performance compared to the Vendor-only group ($46.9/26.7=1.76$), a 46% increase compared to the Hospital-only group ($46.9/32.1=1.46$), and a 48% increase over the AHHMS-alone group ($46.9/31.7=1.48$).

"The use of AHHMS has been growing over the past decade as hospitals

increasingly recognize it as a valuable tool in the fight to improve health care worker hand hygiene," said co-author Lori Moore, MPH, BSN, RN, CPPS, Clinical Educator, GOJO Industries. "It's been shown to provide substantially more quantitative data than direct observations and without observer bias. It provides a real-time view for infection control staff to see how well their hand hygiene performance improvement strategies are working—and if they aren't, they can quickly adjust course."

"This multi-year study of multiple health care facilities is crucial for understanding hand hygiene because, unlike single facility studies, it directly assesses how reproducible hand hygiene rates are. I am unaware of any other multi-facility trial of this size in the literature," said co-author Albert Parker, biostatistician at the Center for Biofilm Engineering and research professor, Montana State University.

"As hospitals navigate out of the acute phase of the pandemic, many are refocusing on basic, yet important, measures like [hand hygiene](#)," said co-author Megan DiGiorgio, MSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC, Senior Clinical Manager, GOJO Industries. "Because our study utilized modeled data, hospitals interested in AHHMS will have an idea of what they can expect in their own facilities when employing AHHMS with complementary strategies."

More information: James W. Arbogast et al, The impact of automated hand hygiene monitoring with and without complementary improvement strategies on performance rates, *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* (2022). [DOI: 10.1017/ice.2022.141](https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2022.141)

Provided by GOJO Industries

Citation: Study finds hospital hand hygiene performance rates improve the most when facilities

partner with their AHHMS vendors (2022, September 8) retrieved 5 February 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-09-hospital-hygiene-facilities-partner-ahhms.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.