

Presence of peers ups health workers' hand hygiene

September 19 2014



(HealthDay)—The presence of other health care workers improves hand hygiene adherence, according to a study published in the October issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*.

Mauricio N. Monsalve, from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, and colleagues deployed a custom-built, automated, hand hygiene monitoring system to detect whether a health care worker practiced hand hygiene upon entering and exiting a patient's room. The system also estimated the location of other [health care workers](#) with respect to health care workers entering or exiting a room. During a 10-day study period, 47,694 in-room and out-of-room hand hygiene opportunities were analyzed.

The researchers found that the observed adherence rate was 20.85

percent when a worker was alone (no recent health care worker contacts). However, the observed adherence was higher (27.90 percent; P "The presence and proximity of other [health care](#) workers is associated with higher [hand hygiene](#) rates," the authors write. "Our results also indicate that rates increase as the social environment becomes more crowded, but with diminishing marginal returns."

More information: [Full Text](#)

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Citation: Presence of peers ups health workers' hand hygiene (2014, September 19) retrieved 21 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-09-presence-peers-ups-health-workers.html>

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