ABSTRACT

In Canada more than 8000 patients die from health care associated infections a year. Hands of health care workers are the most common mode of transmission. The number one way to prevent infection is to perform hand hygiene by using alcohol based hand rub or soap and water. In 2009/2010 our hospital hand hygiene rates were at an overall rate of 42% compliance. In 2010/2011, hand hygiene was picked as a quality indicator with a goal to increase our rate to 80% compliance.

RESULTS

Our aim was to increase hand hygiene compliance rates but also to implement a sustainable hand hygiene program.

During the planning stage we spoke with other hospitals with successful hand hygiene programs prior to developing our plan.

RESULTS

In addition, IPAC recognized one staff member per quarter as an IPAC star. An article was written for the hospital newsletter recognizing their contributions to positive outcomes for our program (Figure 1).

LESSONS LEARNED

Our increased rates have shown that staff involvement and ownership of hand hygiene rates does positively impact practice. Although our work is not done we were able to see an increase in our hand hygiene compliance, from 42% to 75%.

REFERENCES
