



Effective Health Care

Alcohol-Based Hand Hygiene Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- *Alcohol-Based Hand Hygiene* is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

Topic Description

Nominator(s): Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the effectiveness of a eucalyptus oil and alcohol-based hand hygiene agent (developed by the nominator) compared to routinely used alcohol-based hand hygiene (ABHH) agents. The nominator asserts that their product minimizes adverse effects of dermatitis and dry skin seen with other ABHH agents, and can improve adherence with hand hygiene and prevent health care-associated infections (HAIs). The nominator is interested in research comparing ABHH agents to their own product, with attention to adverse effects.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): All patients and healthcare workers

Intervention(s): Green chemistry plant matter ABHH

Comparator(s): Chemical synthetic or organic alcohol-based hand ABHH technology used with secondary skin care products

Outcome(s): Improved hand hygiene adherence; improved patient-centered outcomes; health-care associated infections; effects due to toxic chemical exposures via airway and skin absorption; cost savings

Key Questions from Nominator: For patients and healthcare workers, what is the effectiveness of various alcohol-based hand hygiene (ABHH) agents for topical skin antisepsis compared to the ABHH agent developed by the nominator?

Considerations

- Health care-associated infections (HAIs) pose a major problem for the safety of healthcare workers and patients. As a result, HAI prevention is a priority for health care settings and institutions committed to making health care safer. Studies have confirmed the important role that contaminated health-care workers' hands play in the transmission of health care-associated pathogens.
- ABHH can eliminate the majority of germs, require a short time for action, and do not require infrastructure for handwashing.

- A common adverse effect of frequently using ABHH is skin irritation and dryness. Adverse effects of ABHH agents may contribute to non-adherence with hand hygiene and increase rates of HAIs.
- The nominator described a specific “green” chemistry plant matter-based ABHH and topical skin antiseptics to be used by patients and healthcare workers.
- Our searches of the literature did not yield directly relevant evidence for this topic area. Therefore an AHRQ review on this topic area is not feasible at this time.