Background/Objectives: Compliance with good hand hygiene continues to be a problem in healthcare settings. The infection control department at an orthopedic specialty hospital instituted six creative hand hygiene programs in FY2006 aimed at the visitors, staff and patients. The infection control liaisons were solicited to participate in the events and assist infection control in marketing good hand hygiene.

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Results:

Hand hygiene compliance is monitored by collecting the empty containers of soap, alcohol rub, foam and wipes. The volume used in a two month period is then calculated with patient days to provide the number of hand hygiene procedures performed by patient day.

Over the past year the hand hygiene educational programs have been taking alcohol rub pump dispensers home and skewing our results. Recently we converted all the dispensers to alcohol foam bottles of alcohol rub with novelty bug attached to them during the preadmission screening process - small bugs were distributed to 2000 patients with a hand hygiene brochure and over 300 staff received small snowmen were wrapped around alcohol based hand rub containers and novelty snowmen were attached to small bottles of alcohol rub and hand hygiene brochures.

Conclusions: Infection control can be creative and fun with consistent marketing, networking and education, which are important to promote good hand hygiene among staff and physicians. The use of consistent messages in a variety of new venues establishes a good relationship with staff and a sense of reciprocity, which fosters cooperation and compliance.

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