Safe Surgical Hands in the Operating Theatre

- sustained improvement following a multi modal hand hygiene campaign.

**Improvement Issue and Context**
Bacterial transmission in an operating room (OR) from patient to equipment and healthcare provider’s hands and even to the next patient in the OR has been linked with Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) began to work with the nursing and medical teams to embed the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) concept of “My five moments for hand hygiene” in the OR (Figure 1).

**Methods and Measurement**
- Direct observation was utilised by Infection Prevention and Control Nurses in the OR in 2009. This established the work flow of OR staff to guide more appropriate alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) placement, and measure baseline HH compliance rates using the WHO observation method (WHO, 2009).
- Multidisciplinary operative staff interviews were undertaken in 2009 to establish staff HH training needs and understanding of the WHO “My five moments for hand hygiene”.
- Methods used from 2009 to 2016 are highlighted in the timeline shown as Figure 2.

**Results**
Figure 3. Acute hospital operating room hand hygiene audit compliance rates 2009 – 2016.

- OR self-audit results 2009-2011 have been archived and inaccessible.
- IPCT quality assurance results are a small sample size.

**Future Plans**
- Direct observation planned to further define the WHO 5th moment for hand hygiene in an OR.

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**Reference**