

Research Note

Infection control at an older adult facility in Finland

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aimed to clarify the characteristics of infection control at an older adult facility in Finland.

Results: An Infection Control Committee was established at the facility and an infection control manual was prepared and regularly revised. A nurse with 15 years of experience was in charge of infection control and constantly provided infection control education for staff. All items necessary for infection control were available. We found that the compliance rate of mask wearing was 21.2%; apron gown wearing was 69.7%; hand hygiene after treatment was 87.9%; hand hygiene before treatment was 97.0%; and hand hygiene after glove removal, selection of appropriate handwashing method, rate of glove wearing, hand hygiene when moving to other patients, and maintenance of a clean environment were 100%

Discussion: The infection control system in the studied older adult facility was well developed. Compared with previous literature from a prefecture in Japan, staff at the older adult facility had high compliance. Importantly, an experienced nurse was in charge of infection control and was able to educate staff. Furthermore, at the studied facility, items necessary for infection control reflect Finnish medical economy, and such facilities can receive financial assistance from the government. The infection control nurse made efficient use of funds and provided items necessary for infection control.

Key words: Infection control, Finland, older adult facility