

## Abstract

Health care-associated infections are a problem world-wide especially in low-middle income countries. Limited resources make basic hand hygiene difficult at some health care facilities which may lead to a knowledge deficit or lack of interest at times when resources are available. The purpose of this project was to assess the infection control practices focusing on hand hygiene knowledge, skills and attitudes of health-care workers and staff at a small rural hospital in Maras, Peru. The quality improvement plan for this project was broke into two phases; phase I gathered data from a survey and questionnaire followed by a lecture-style education, then hands-on skills training, followed by a skills-return demonstration, post survey, and questionnaire. Phase II was a follow-up four months later, it looked at skills retention by return demonstration and administered a knowledge based questionnaire. Data returned show a slight increase in knowledge following the educational portion of training, the skills portion observed a large interest in learning the techniques of hand hygiene and return demonstrations where successful. Future goals for this project are to find sustainable resources for the hospital and to continue educating the health-care workers and staff, along with moving the habit of basic infection control and hand hygiene out into the villages in the district of Maras, Peru.

*Keywords:* infection control, hand hygiene, health-care associated infections, low-middle income countries, and Peru.