

## **REPORT ON WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 2025 OBSERVANCE**

The Hospital Infection Control Unit (HICU), in collaboration with the Nursing Service Division, observed **World Hand Hygiene Week 2025** from **1st to 5th May**. This annual initiative was held in alignment with the **World Health Organization's (WHO) global campaign – *SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands***, which advocates for effective hand hygiene as a vital practice in healthcare settings to prevent healthcare-associated infections and ensure patient safety.

This year's theme, "**It might be gloves – it's always hand hygiene**," served as a powerful reminder that wearing gloves does not replace the need for proper hand hygiene. The campaign emphasized that hand hygiene must be performed at the **right time and in the correct manner**, whether gloves are used or not, to protect both patients and healthcare professionals.

### **Highlights of the Week**

#### **1. One-Day Workshop on Infection Prevention and Care Bundle Practices**

The week began with a comprehensive one-day workshop conducted on 1st May 2025 at Auditorium 2, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All nursing officers participated in the sessions, which were designed to enhance awareness and practical knowledge of infection prevention.

The workshop featured a series of expert-led presentations: **Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation – Best Practices, Complications & Infection Management** by *Mr. Ajesh M.J.*, Area Manager, Becton Dickinson. **Central Line Care & Maintenance** by *Mr. Babuji K.*, Branch Manager, Becton Dickinson. **Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)** by *Dr. Lakshmi Natarajan*, PDCC – Hospital Infection Control. And **Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) – Care Bundle** by *Dr. Shilpa Mohan*, PDCC – Hospital Infection Control. Participants also engaged in **hands-on skill stations**: *Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation and central line insertion and maintenance* - led by *Mr. Ajesh and Mr. Babuji*. *Female urinary catheter insertion and maintenance* – led by *Ms. Vijayalakshmi G.*, Nursing Officer-B, Neurology ICU. And *Male urinary catheter insertion and maintenance* – led by *Mr. Kiran S. Kumar*, Nursing Officer-B, Cardiology ICU.

#### **2. Infection Control Assessment – NABH Focus**

On **2nd May**, a structured assessment was carried out to evaluate infection control practices across various departments, with a focus on compliance with NABH standards. This initiative aimed to foster healthy competition and recognize outstanding performance.

#### **Awardees:**

- **Best ICU:** Stroke ICU
- **Best Ward:** CH Ward
- **Best OT:** Cardiac Surgery OT
- **Best Laboratory:** Blood Bank

The evaluation was conducted by *Mrs. Remya*, Head of the Quality Cell, and *Ms. Chinchu*, Infection Control Supervisor, both from KIMS TVM.

#### **3. Hand Hygiene Challenge**

On **3rd May**, a **Hand Hygiene Challenge** was organized to actively engage healthcare staff in hand hygiene best practices. The event generated much enthusiasm and reinforced daily adherence to hand hygiene protocols. And the **Hand Hygiene Championship** was awarded to: Neurosurgery Ward

#### 4. Valedictory Function and Panel Discussion

The observance concluded with a **valedictory function on 5th May**. The ceremony began with a **welcome address** by *Dr. Kavita Raja*, Medical Superintendent, HOD Microbiology, and Chairperson of HICU. The event was formally **inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Behari**, Director, SCTIMST. He released the latest version of the Infection Control Manual of SCTIMST and distributed prizes and mementoes to the winners of the various competitions held during the week. Felicitation speeches were delivered by: *Dr. Manju Nair R*, AMO, *Dr. Harikrishnan*, Prof. and Head of the Department of Cardiology and *Mrs. Nirmala M O*, Nursing Superintendent.

A **panel discussion** followed, centered on the theme: **“Hurdles in the Implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Policy and the Way Forward.”** Under the Moderator: *Dr. Aravind*, Head – Infectious Diseases, MCH TVM and the Panelists included: *Dr. Prasanta Kumar Dash*, Prof and HOD Anaesthesiology, *Dr. Vivek V. Pillai*, Prof. and HOD, CVTS, *Dr. Sajith S.*, Professor, Neurology and *Dr. George C. Villanilam*, Professor, Neurosurgery. The discussion was rich with insights and practical suggestions for improving the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs in clinical settings.

The function concluded with a **vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. Preena V.**, Infection Control Nurse, who acknowledged the dedication and contributions of all participants, speakers, and organizing members. The range of activities conducted during the week successfully emphasized the central message: **hand hygiene is fundamental to quality healthcare.**



