

Abstract

The issue that this study addresses is the colonization of health care workers with pathogenic patient bacteria. To address this problem, the purpose of this study will be to determine if five days is long enough for health care workers to shed the pathogenic form of bacteria. To gather data, nursing students in their last year of study will collect microbiological specimens from their nostrils before a clinical day, after their clinical day, and five days after their clinical. Those samples will be checked for pathogenicity like antibiotic resistance and higher presence of gram positive vs. gram negative bacteria. Knowledge about how long those in health care carry the bacteria may be useful in decreasing rates and may aid in finding ways to decrease transmission to the health care workers family and the outside environment.