

## **CURRENT FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS**

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### **Aim**

To identify and compare the current infection control (IC) practices of domestic and international medical students. To determine the factors influencing IC performance including; the beliefs, motivations and experiences of students and the accessibility of hand washing (HW) and hand disinfection (HD) points.

### **Materials and Methods**

Domestic (n=255) and International (n=142) clinical year medical students of the Medical University of Warsaw, were surveyed voluntarily and anonymously with an original printed questionnaire.

### **Results**

The accessibility and the performance of HW and HD presented with a significant correlation in both groups upon entering and leaving the ward ( $p < 0.05$ ). Hand disinfection between patients was highest in those who declared carrying personal alcohol gel. Stethoscopes were disinfected after each use by 74% of international but only 54% of domestic students, whilst other personal items were never disinfected by 83% and 82% respectively. Self-protection was ranked most important motivational factor for 81% domestic and 77% internationals, whilst the protection of patients differed at 56% and 76% respectively. Upbringing was most influential on practices followed by medical education and the example of clinicians.

### **Conclusions**

An improvement in the accessibility of HW and HD facilities may enable greater compliance when accompanied by clinician lead education.