

Verantwoording

Module Handhygiëne Clostridioides difficile

Inhoudsopgave

Search and select (Methods)	2
Summary of literature.....	2
Referenties.....	7
Bijlage 1. Evidence table for intervention studies	9
Bijlage 2 Risk of bias tables	13
Bijlage 3. Table of excluded studies.....	16

A systematic review of the literature was performed to answer the following question:

Which method is most suitable for hand hygiene of healthcare professionals treating patients with *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*)? Do you need to wash or disinfect your hands? Does the hand hygiene method differ in an outbreak situation?

P	Healthcare worker treating patients with <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> , or patients infected with <i>Clostridioides difficile</i>
I	Hand disinfection using hand disinfectant/alcohol
C	Washing hands using water and soap
O	Removing/reduction of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> spores, hand hygiene compliance, incidence of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> , infection with a secondary pathogen, outbreaks, transmission

Relevant outcome measures

The guideline development group chose removing/reduction of *C. difficile* spores as a critical outcome measure for decision making; and hand hygiene compliance, incidence of *C. difficile*, infection with a secondary pathogen, outbreaks, transmission as important outcome measures for decision making.

A priori, the working group did not define the outcome measures listed above but used the definitions used in the studies.

The working group defined the GRADE-standard limit of 25% difference for dichotomous outcomes (RR <0.8 or >1.25), and 10% for continuous outcomes as a minimal clinically (patient) important difference.

Search and select (Methods)

The databases Medline (via OVID) and Embase (via Embase.com) were searched with relevant search terms until 24 august 2022. The detailed search strategy is depicted under the tab Methods. The systematic literature search resulted in 286 hits. Studies were selected based on the following criteria: systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, or comparative observational studies answering the research question. Seventy-six studies were initially selected based on title and abstract screening. After reading the full text, 72 studies were excluded (see the table with reasons for exclusion under the tab Methods), and 4 studies were included.

Results

Four studies (Jabbar 2010, Oughton 2009, Kundrapu 2014, Knight 2010) were included in the analysis of the literature. Important study characteristics and results are summarized in the evidence tables. The assessment of the risk of bias is summarized in the risk of bias tables.

Summary of literature

Description of studies

Jabbar (2010) conducted an experiment to count how many viable *C. difficile* spores that had been experimentally inoculated on hands of volunteers were retained after Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR) use and to determine the subsequent efficiency of their transfer

through physical contact. Included were ten healthy volunteers, all of them nonclinical research personnel. Before inoculation, volunteers cleansed their hands with a nonmedicated soap and water and dried them with paper towels. At that point, stamp sampling for preinoculation cultures was performed by applying a prereduced taurocholate-cycloserine-cefoxitin-fructose agar (TCCFA) plate against the hypothenar eminence of the right hand. *C. difficile* was seeded onto volunteers' bare hands by an inoculation of 100 mL of the spore suspension (500,000 CFU total or 250,000 CFU per hand) onto the palm followed by 15 seconds of bimanual palmar rubbing and 3 minutes of air drying. This high inoculum was necessary to yield a sufficient number of CFU to be counted in post-decontamination cultures and to show a difference between tested products. Participants then used 1 of 5 hand hygiene agents to clean their hands: chlorhexidine gluconate soap and water, 3 different ABHRs (Isagel, Purell, Endure) with a minimum alcohol concentration of 60%, or a water control. A post-hand hygiene stamp for culture of the right hand was then performed on a TCCFA plate. To determine potential transfer of spores 5 donor volunteers shook hands with 5 recipient volunteers before a post-hand hygiene stamp was performed.

Oughton (2009) conducted a randomized crossover comparison evaluating common hand hygiene methods for efficacy in removing *C. difficile*. Ten hospital laboratory workers volunteered for this study. A crossover format was used so that all volunteers would be exposed to all interventions once for each contamination protocol during the observation period of June–July 2007. The order of interventions for each volunteer was assigned by means of computer-generated random number lists. A total of 20 mL nontoxogenic strain of *C. difficile* was poured into a clean, tight-fitting nitrile glove. The hands were allowed to air dry for 1–2 minutes, prior to one of the hand hygiene interventions. The hand hygiene interventions studied were (1) warm (30 °C) water with plain soap, (2) cold (15 °C) water with plain soap, (3) warm (30 °C) water with 2% chlorhexidine antibacterial soap, (4) antiseptic hand wipes with 40% vol/vol ethanol and 0.5% parachlorometaxyleneol, (5) alcohol-based handrub with 70% vol/vol isopropanol, and (6) a no-wash negative control. All interventions were evaluated for mean reduction in colonyforming units (CFUs) under 2 contamination protocols: “whole hand” and “palmar surface.”

Kundrapu (2014) conducted a prospective, randomized trial to compare the effectiveness of soap and water hand wash with alcohol hand rub for removal of *C. difficile* spores from hands of patients. Patients with CDI or asymptomatic carriers of toxigenic *C. difficile* identified through rectal surveillance cultures were randomized to perform hand hygiene using alcohol hand rub or soap and water hand wash with soap containing 0.5% triclosan. For alcohol hand rub, 10 mL of product was applied to hands for 30 seconds. For soap and water hand wash, 2 mL of soap was applied, and hands were washed for 30 seconds. Hands were cultured before and after each hand hygiene episode. Subjects participated in a maximum of 4 hand hygiene assessments separated by at least 24 hours with randomization before each assessment. For each group, the frequency of hand contamination and the number of colonies recovered were compared

Knight (2010) conducted a retrospective chart review analysis to compare incidence rates of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea (CDAD) before and after implementation of the ABHR policy. Included were adult (age >18 years) patients with in-patient status. CDAD was defined as health care facility-onset, health care facility associated diarrhea with a positive assay for *C. difficile* toxin A, toxin B, or both. Throughout the study period, *C. difficile*

assays were performed using an enzyme immunoassay for the detection of toxins A and B. All in-patients with a diagnosis of CDAD were identified by ICD-9 code from our medical records database or by positive C difficile toxin. Hand hygiene, including appropriate use of ABHR and soap and water, was monitored after ABHR implementation. Before implementation, only a 2% chlorhexidine-based soap product was available in the hospital. At the time of implementation, all existing antimicrobial products were removed and replaced with the alcohol-based hand foam. Hand hygiene compliance before ABHR implementation was not routinely measured. Compliance data after ABHR implementation was compared to earlier data as a reflection of hand hygiene compliance before introduction of the new policy. The only soap product available was a lotion soap with no antimicrobial activity. Outcome was the incidence rate of CDAD calculated as the number of patients with a positive C difficile toxin assay per 10,000 patient-days and hand hygiene compliance.

Results

Removing/reduction of Clostridioides difficile spores

In total, 3 studies reported on removing/reduction of *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) spores.

Jabbar (2010) compared a total of 120 observations (10 participants, 2 hands each, 5 interventions, and 1 negative control) in a pairwise fashion for the whole hand protocol. Jabbar (2010) found a mean \log_{10} reduction of 0.90 ± 0.37 CFU/cm² on hands of volunteers following chlorhexidine gluconate soap-and-water washing compared to a mean \log_{10} reduction of 0.11 ± 0.20 CFU/cm² (Mean difference (MD) = -0.79; 95% CI -0.87 to -0.71) after use of isagel, 0.37 ± 0.42 CFU/cm² (MD= -0.53; 95% CI -0.63 to -0.43) after use of endure, and 0.14 ± 0.33 CFU/cm² (MD= -0.76; 95% CI -0.85 to -0.67) after use of purell. Overall, the use of chlorhexidine gluconate soap-and-water washing resulted in a higher mean \log_{10} reduction compared to alcohol-based handrubs.

Oughton (2009) found that, using the whole hand protocol, water and plain soap compared to alcohol-based handrub resulted in a mean log reduction of \log_{10} 2.08 CFU/mL (95% CI 1.69 to 2.47). Cold water and plain soap compared to alcohol-based handrub resulted in a mean log reduction of \log_{10} 1.46 CFU/mL (95% CI 1.06 to 1.85). Overall, the use of water and plain soap resulted in a higher mean \log_{10} reduction compared to alcohol-based handrub (MD = -0.62; 95% CI -1.10 to -0.14).

Kundrapu (2014) found that 6/30 (20%) positive cultures prior to the hand wash intervention were also positive after hand washing compared to 28/30 (93%) cultures before and after alcohol rub. The RR was 0.21 (95% CI 0.10 to 0.44) in favour of hand washing.

Incidence of Clostridioides difficile

Knight (2010) observed a total of 766 patients with health care facility associated CDAD were identified. A total of 270 cases of CDAD were identified before ABHR implementation, and 496 cases were identified after implementation. The rate decreased from 4.96 per 10,000 patient-days before ABHR implementation, to 3.98 per 10,000 patient-days after ABHR implementation (P = 0.0036).

Transmission

Bijlage bij Richtlijn SRI Handhygiëne en persoonlijke hygiëne medewerkers (www.richtlijnenlangdurigezorg.nl)

Jabbar (2010) found that residual spore counts for donors' hands after ABHR use ranged from 180 to 1,547 CFU. After shaking hands with the donors, recipients' hands had spore counts of 33 to 369 CFU, for a mean efficiency of transfer of 30.2% \pm 17.4%.

Handhygiene compliance

Knight (2010) found that after implementation of the ABHR policy, compliance with hand hygiene, including both ABHR and soap and water, rose dramatically. Overall, compliance rose from 46% to 90%.

Infection with a secondary pathogen

No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure infection with a secondary pathogen.

Outbreaks

No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure outbreaks

Level of evidence of the literature

Removing/reduction of Clostridioides difficile spores

The level of evidence for observational studies starts 'low'. The quality of evidence regarding outcome measure 'Removing/reduction of *Clostridioides difficile* spores' was downgraded by 1 level to GRADE very low because of risk of bias due to limitation in the study design (no screening up on admission or prior/between exposure experiments).

Transmission

The level of evidence for observational studies starts 'low'. The quality of evidence regarding outcome measure 'transmission' was downgraded by 1 level to GRADE very low because only one study reported the outcome measure (imprecision).

Incidence of Clostridioides difficile

The level of evidence for observational studies starts 'low'. The quality of evidence regarding outcome measure 'Incidence of *Clostridioides difficile*' was downgraded by 1 level to GRADE very low because only one study reported the outcome measure (imprecision).

Hand hygiene compliance

The level of evidence for observational studies starts 'low' the quality of evidence regarding outcome measure 'hand hygiene compliance' was downgraded by 1 level to GRADE very low because only one study reported the outcome measure (imprecision).

Infection with a secondary pathogen

No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure infection with a secondary pathogen.

Outbreaks

No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure outbreaks

Conclusions

Very low GRADE	Removing/reduction of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> spores The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure 'removing/reduction of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> spores'. <i>Sources: Jabbar, 2010; Oughton, 2009; Kundrapu, 2014</i>
Very low GRADE	Transmission The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure 'transmission'. <i>Sources: Jabbar, 2010</i>
Very low GRADE	Incidence of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure 'incidence of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> '. <i>Sources: Knight, 2010</i>
Very low GRADE	Hand hygiene compliance The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure 'hand hygiene compliance'. <i>Sources: Jabbar, 2010; Oughton, 2009; Kundrapu, 2014</i>
No GRADE	Infection with a secondary pathogen No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure infection with a secondary pathogen.
No GRADE	Outbreaks No evidence was found regarding the effect of hand washing using water and soap compared to hand disinfectant or alcohol on the outcome measure outbreaks

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Bijlage 1. Evidence table for intervention studies

(randomized controlled trials and non-randomized *observational* studies [cohort studies, case-control studies, case series])¹

Study reference	Study characteristics	Patient characteristics ²	Intervention (I)	Follow-up	Outcome measures and effect size ⁴	Comments
Jabbar, 2010	<p><u>Type of study:</u> prospective cohort</p> <p><u>Setting and country:</u> volunteers, hospital, US</p> <p><u>Funding and conflicts of interest:</u> The study was funded by The US Department of Veterans Affairs Research Service.</p> <p>two authors report receiving commercial funds.</p>	<p><u>Inclusion criteria:</u> - Ten healthy volunteers, all of them nonclinical research personnel at Hines VA Hospital,</p> <p><u>Exclusion criteria:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>N total at baseline:</u> 10</p> <p><u>Important prognostic factors²:</u> 2/10 had preinoculation hand cultures positive for <i>C. difficile</i>, although the number of colonies was negligible (fewer than 3 CFU per plate).</p>	<p><u>Describe intervention:</u> Hand washing using alcohol-based hand rub compared to Chlorhexidine Hand Wash</p>	<p><u>Length of follow-up:</u> No follow-up</p> <p><u>Loss-to-follow-up:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>Incomplete outcome data:</u> Not applicable</p>	<p><u>Outcome measures:</u></p> <p><i>Washing with gluconate soap-and-water:</i> Mean log10 reduction 0.90 + 0.37 CFU/cm2</p> <p><i>Washing with Isagel:</i> mean log10 reduction of 0.11 + 0.20 CFU/cm2</p> <p><i>Washing with Endure:</i> mean log10 reduction 0.37 + 0.42 CFU/cm2 a</p> <p><i>Washing with Purell:</i> mean log10 reduction 0.14 + 0.33 CFU/cm2</p> <p><i>Transmission:</i> mean efficiency of transfer of 30.2% + 17.4%.after ABHR use</p>	<p>The authors conclude that hand washing with soap and water is significantly more effective at removing <i>C. difficile</i> spores from the hands of volunteers than are ABHRs. Residual spores are readily transferred by a handshake after use of ABHR</p>
Knight, 2010	<p><u>Type of study:</u> Retrospective chart review</p>	<p><u>Inclusion criteria:</u> Adult (age ≥18 years) patients with CDAD and in-patient status</p>	<p><u>Describe intervention:</u> Implementation of ABHR policy</p>	<p><u>Length of follow-up:</u> 7,5 years</p> <p><u>Loss-to-follow-up:</u> Not applicable</p>	<p><u>Outcome measures:</u></p> <p><i>Incidence rate prior to ABHR implementation:</i></p>	<p>The authors conclude that the data provides no evidence of an</p>

	<p><u>Setting and country:</u> patients with CDAD, hospital, US</p> <p><u>Funding and conflicts of interest:</u> Authors declare no conflicts of interest.</p>	<p>at our institution between January 1, 2001, and June 30, 2008</p> <p><u>Exclusion criteria:</u> Not fulfilling inclusion criteria</p> <p><u>N total at baseline:</u> 766</p> <p><u>Important prognostic factors²:</u> 270 cases of CDAD were identified before ABHR implementation, and 496 cases were identified after implementation</p>		<p><u>Incomplete outcome data:</u> Not applicable</p>	<p>4.96 per 10,000 patient-days</p> <p><i>Incidence rate prior to ABHR implementation:</i> 3.98 per 10,000 patient-days (P = 0.0036).</p> <p><i>Compliance compliance rose from 46% to 90%.</i></p>	<p>increased CDAD rate after implementation of an ABHR policy at our institution.</p>
Kundrapu, 2014	<p><u>Type of study:</u> Prospective cohort study</p> <p><u>Setting and country:</u> patients, hospital, US</p> <p><u>Funding and conflicts of interest:</u> Study was supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs. All authors declare no conflict of interest</p>	<p><u>Inclusion criteria:</u> Adult (age ≥ 18 years) patients with CDI or asymptomatic carriers of toxigenic C. difficile identified through rectal surveillance cultures</p> <p><u>Exclusion criteria:</u> Not fulfilling inclusion criteria</p> <p><u>N total at baseline:</u> 44 patients 121 hands</p>	<p><u>Describe intervention:</u> hand hygiene using alcohol hand rub (Purell) or soap and water hand wash with soap containing 0.5% triclosan</p>	<p><u>Length of follow-up:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>Loss-to-follow-up:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>Incomplete outcome data:</u> Not applicable</p>	<p><u>Outcome measures:</u></p> <p>Positive culture after hand wash 6/30 (20%)</p> <p>Positive culture after alcohol rub 28/30 (93%)</p> <p>RR = 0.21 (95% CI 0.10 to 0.44) in favour of hand washing.</p>	<p>The authors conclude that the hand washing was effective for reducing levels of C. difficile spores on hands</p>

		<u>Important prognostic factors</u> ² : 28 patients with CDI 16 asymptomatic carriers.				
Oughton, 2010	<u>Type of study</u> : Prospective randomized cross-over study <u>Setting and country</u> : patients, hospital, Canada <u>Funding and conflicts of interest</u> : Study was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Bayer Healthcare (Canada). All authors declare no conflict of interest	<u>Inclusion criteria</u> : Ten hospital laboratory workers volunteered for this study <u>Exclusion criteria</u> : Not fulfilling inclusion criteria <u>N total at baseline</u> : 10 patients <u>Important prognostic factors</u> ² : 120 observations whole-hand protocol 318 observations palmar surface protocol	<u>Describe intervention</u> : The hand hygiene interventions studied were (1) warm (30 °C) water with plain soap (Hygienipak Instafoam, Deb Canada), (2) cold (15 °C) water with plain soap (Hygienipak Instafoam, Deb Canada), (3) warm (30 °C) water with 2% chlorhexidine antibacterial soap (Hygienipak 2% CHG foaming skin cleanser, Deb Canada), (4) antiseptic hand wipes with 40% vol/vol ethanol and 0.5% parachlorometaxyleneol (Sani-dex antimicrobial hand wipes, PDI), (5) alcohol-based handrub with 70% vol/vol isopropanol	<u>Length of follow-up</u> : Not applicable <u>Loss-to-follow-up</u> : Not applicable <u>Incomplete outcome data</u> : Not applicable	<u>Outcome measures</u> : <i>water and plain soap compared to alcohol-based handrub</i> mean log ₁₀ reduction of 2.08 CFU/mL (95% CI 1.69 to 2.47). <i>Cold water and plain soap compared to alcohol-based handrub</i> mean log ₁₀ reduction of 1.46 CFU/mL (95% CI 1.06 to 1.85).	The authors conclude that handwashing with soap and water showed the greatest efficacy in removing <i>C. difficile</i> and should be performed preferentially over the use of alcohol-based handrubs when contact with <i>C. difficile</i> is suspected or likely

			(Manorapid, Antiseptica, Pulheim-Brauwiler), and (6) a no-wash negative control.			
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Notes:

1. Prognostic balance between treatment groups is usually guaranteed in randomized studies, but non-randomized (observational) studies require matching of patients between treatment groups (case-control studies) or multivariate adjustment for prognostic factors (confounders) (cohort studies); the evidence table should contain sufficient details on these procedures
2. Provide data per treatment group on the most important prognostic factors [(potential) confounders]
3. For case-control studies, provide sufficient detail on the procedure used to match cases and controls
4. For cohort studies, provide sufficient detail on the (multivariate) analyses used to adjust for (potential) confounders

Bijlage 2 Risk of bias tables

Risk of bias table for interventions studies (cohort studies based on risk of bias tool by the CLARITY Group at McMaster University)

Author, year	Selection of participants Was selection of exposed and non-exposed cohorts drawn from the same population?	Exposure Can we be confident in the assessment of exposure?	Outcome of interest Can we be confident that the outcome of interest was not present at start of study?	Confounding-assessment Can we be confident in the assessment of confounding factors?	Confounding-analysis Did the study match exposed and unexposed for all variables that are associated with the outcome of interest or did the statistical analysis adjust for these confounding variables?	Assessment of outcome Can we be confident in the assessment of outcome?	Follow up Was the follow up of cohorts adequate? In particular, was outcome data complete or imputed?	Co-interventions Were co-interventions similar between groups?	Overall Risk of bias
	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Definitely yes, probably yes, probably no, definitely no	Low, Some concerns, High
Jabbar (2010)	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Ten healthy volunteers, all of them nonclinical research personnel at Hines VA Hospital	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: 2/10 had minor CFU preinoculation and 8/10 had no CFU preinoculation indicating no infection	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Outcome is based on direct culture following inoculation	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Culturing on selective medium.	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	Low
Knight (2010)	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: All patients fulfilling selection	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: All in-patients with a diagnosis	<i>Probably no,</i> Reason: There was no screening upon admission it was	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Throughout the study period,	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>No information</i>	Some concerns

	criteria were included	of CDAD were identified by ICD-9 code from medical records database or by positive C difficile toxin assay from the microbiology laboratory database.	unclear if patients were infected in hospital as a result of hospital transmission			C difficile assays were performed using an enzyme immunoassay			
Kundrapu, 2014	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: All were hospital patient that fulfilled inclusion criteria	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Patients with CDI or asymptomatic carriers of toxigenic C. difficile identified through rectal surveillance cultures	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Patients were only included if positive	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Probably no</i> Reason: Only 14/44 (32%) patients had positive hand cultures before hand hygiene meaning the outcome was not present prior to the intervention	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>No information</i>	Some concerns
Oughton, 2009	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Ten hospital laboratory workers volunteered for this study	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: Culturing on selective medium	<i>Probably no</i> Reason: No screening prior to exposure. Unclear is outcome was present at the beginning of the intervention or during repeated interventions.	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Definitely yes</i> Reason: each hand was placed into a new glove containing 20 mL of sterile brain-heart infusion broth, which was gently dispersed for	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>No information</i>	Some concerns

						30 seconds. A 1-mL sample of the broth was removed via pipette for quantification by serial 10-fold dilution on CCFA-T and incubated anaerobically at 37 °C for 48 hours.			
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Footnotes

Selection of participants Example of low risk of bias: Exposed and unexposed drawn from same administrative database of patients presenting at same points of care over the same time frame

Exposure Examples of low risk of bias: Secure record (e.g. surgical records, pharmacy records); Repeated interview or other ascertainment asking about current use/exposure

Confounding Examples of low risk of bias regarding assessment: Interview of all participants; Self-completed survey from all participants; Review of charts with reproducibility demonstrated; From database with documentation of accuracy of abstraction of prognostic data.

Example of low risk of bias regarding analysis: Comprehensive matching (e.g. with propensity score) or adjustment for all plausible confounding variables

Assessment of outcome Examples of low risk of bias: Independent blind assessment; Record linkage; For some outcomes (e.g. fractured hip), reference to the medical record is sufficient to satisfy the requirement for confirmation of the fracture

Follow up Examples of low risk of bias: No missing outcome data; Reasons for missing outcome data unlikely to be related to true outcome (for survival data, censoring is unlikely to introduce bias); Missing outcome data balanced in numbers across intervention groups, with similar reasons for missing data across groups; Missing data have been imputed using appropriated methods

Co-interventions Example of low risk of bias: Most or all relevant co-interventions that might influence the outcome of interest are documented to be similar in the exposed and unexposed

Bijlage 3. Table of excluded studies

Author and year	Reason for exclusion
Alcohol hand gels are not effective against C. difficile spores. Nursing Times. 2005; 101 (24) :2-2	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Alcohol rubs surprisingly effective against C. diff: traditional hand washing still performs better. Hospital Infection Control. 2006; 33 (2) :17-17	I and C does not meet PICO
Combat C. difficile with better hand hygiene: stick with alcohol except in outbreak. Hospital Employee Health. 2006; 25 (6) :67-68	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
PURELL Skin Nourishing Foam Hand Sanitiser. British Journal of Cardiac Nursing. 2010; 5 (3) :154-154	I and C does not meet PICO
The handiwork of good health. Harvard Health Letter. 2007; 32 (3) :1-3	I and C does not meet PICO
Anonymous Hand hygiene is crucial to combat Clostridium difficile. Nursing older people. 2014; 26 (8) :15	I and C does not meet PICO
Aydın, Ayla İrem and Atak, Meryem and Nurcan, Nurcan Özyazıcıoğlu and Dalkızan, Vahit Hand dermatitis among nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic: frequency and factors. World Council of Enterostomal Therapists Journal. 2021; 41 (4) :10-14	P does not meet PICO
Barbadoro, P. and Martini, E. and Savini, S. and Marigliano, A. and Ponzio, E. and Prospero, E. and D'Errico, M. M. In vivo comparative efficacy of three surgical hand preparation agents in reducing bacterial count. Journal of Hospital Infection. 2014; 86 (1) :64-67	P does not meet PICO
Barker, A. K. and Zellmer, C. and Tischendorf, J. and Duster, M. and Valentine, S. and Wright, M. O. and Safdar, N. On the hands of patients with Clostridium difficile: A study of spore prevalence and the effect of hand hygiene on C difficile removal. American Journal of Infection Control. 2017; 45 (10) :1154-1156	P does not meet PICO
Bettin, K. and Clabots, C. and Mathie, P. and Willard, K. and Gerding, D. N. Effectiveness of liquid soap vs. chlorhexidine gluconate for the removal of Clostridium difficile from bare hands and gloved hands. Infection control and hospital epidemiology : the official journal of the Society of Hospital Epidemiologists of America. 1994; 15 (11) :697-702	P does not meet PICO
Blanckaert, K. and Barbut, F. and Coignard, B. and Grandbastien, B. and Astagneau, P. Clostridium difficile and hand hygiene. Medecine et Maladies Infectieuses. 2007; 37 :S63-S65	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Bloomfield, S. F. and Aiello, A. E. and Cookson, B. and O'Boyle, C. and Larson, E. L. The effectiveness of hand hygiene procedures in reducing the risks of infections in home and community settings including handwashing and alcohol-based hand sanitizers. American Journal of Infection Control. 2007; 35 (10) :S27-64	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Boyce, J. M. and Pittet, D. Guideline for hand hygiene in health-care settings: recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR: Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report. 2002; 51 (42) :1-1	Wrong publication type - Guideline
Boyce, John M. and Ligi, Cathy and Kohan, Cindy and Dumigan, Diane and Havill, Nancy L. Lack of association between the increased incidence of Clostridium difficile-associated disease and the increasing use of alcohol-based hand rubs. Infection control and hospital epidemiology. 2006; 27 (5) :479-83	I and C does not meet PICO
Breidablik, H. J. and Lysebo, D. E. and Johannessen, L. and Skare, Å and Andersen, J. R. and Kleiven, O. T. Ozonized water as an alternative to alcohol-based hand disinfection. Journal of Hospital Infection. 2019; 102 (4) :419-424	I and C does not meet PICO

Cheng, V. C. C. and Chau, P. H. and So, S. Y. C. and Chen, J. H. K. and Poon, R. W. S. and Wong, S. C. Y. and Hung, I. F. N. and Lee, W. M. and Tai, J. W. M. and Ho, P. L. and Yam, W. C. and Yuen, K. Y. Containment of Clostridium difficile infection without reduction in antimicrobial use in Hong Kong. <i>European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases</i> . 2015; 34 (7) :1381-1386	I and C does not meet PICO
Chow, Angela and Arah, Onyebuchi A. and Chan, Siew-Pang and Poh, Bee-Fong and Krishnan, Prabha and Ng, Woei-Kian and Choudhury, Saugata and Chan, Joey and Ang, Brenda Alcohol handrubbing and chlorhexidine handwashing protocols for routine hospital practice: A randomized clinical trial of protocol efficacy and time effectiveness. <i>American Journal of Infection Control</i> . 2012; 40 (9) :800-805	P and C do not meet PICO
Clayton, J. J. and McHale-Owen, J. Outbreak of Clostridium difficile ribotype 027 in a residential home. <i>The Journal of hospital infection</i> . 2014; 88 (4) :222-5	I and C does not meet PICO
Cooper, Christopher C. and Jump, Robin L. P. and Chopra, Teena Prevention of Infection Due to Clostridium difficile. <i>Infectious disease clinics of North America</i> . 2016; 30 (4) :999-1012	I and C does not meet PICO
Degnan, Helen Healthcare surveillance. <i>Nursing standard (Royal College of Nursing (Great Britain))</i> : 1987). 2015; 29 (44) :61	I and C does not meet PICO
Deschênes, P. and Chano, F. and Dionne, L. L. and Pittet, D. and Longtin, Y. Efficacy of the World Health Organization–recommended handwashing technique and a modified washing technique to remove Clostridium difficile from hands. <i>American Journal of Infection Control</i> . 2017; 45 (8) :844-848	I and C does not meet PICO
Deyneko, Alexander and Cordeiro, Fernanda and Berlin, Laurie and Ben-David, Debby and Perna, Silvana and Longtin, Yves Impact of sink location on hand hygiene compliance after care of patients with Clostridium difficile infection: a cross-sectional study. <i>BMC infectious diseases</i> . 2016; 16 :203	I and C does not meet PICO
Dietl, B. and Calbo, E. Top-ten papers in Infection Control (2015-2017). <i>Revista espanola de quimioterapia : publicacion oficial de la Sociedad Espanola de Quimioterapia</i> . 2018; 31 :62-65	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Edmonds, S. L. and Zapka, C. and Kasper, D. and Gerber, R. and McCormack, R. and Macinga, D. and Johnson, S. and Sambol, S. and Fricker, C. and Arbogast, J. and Gerding, D. N. Effectiveness of hand hygiene for removal of Clostridium difficile spores from hands. <i>Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology</i> . 2013; 34 (3) :302-305	I and C does not meet PICO
Ellingson, K. and Haas, J. P. and Aiello, A. E. and Kusek, L. and Maragakis, L. L. and Olmsted, R. N. and Perencevich, E. and Polgreen, P. M. and Schweizer, M. L. and Trexler, P. and VanAmringe, M. and Yokoe, D. S. Strategies to prevent healthcare-associated infections through hand hygiene. <i>Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology</i> . 2014; 35 (8) :937-960	Wrong publication type - guideline
Fraise, A. Currently available sporicides for use in healthcare, and their limitations. <i>The Journal of hospital infection</i> . 2011; 77 (3) :210-2	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Gerding, Dale N. and Muto, Carlene A. and Owens, Robert C., Jr. Measures to control and prevent Clostridium difficile infection. <i>Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America</i> . 2008; 46 :S43-9	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Gopal Rao, G. and Jeanes, A. and Osman, M. and Aylott, C. and Green, J. Marketing hand hygiene in hospitals--a case study. <i>The Journal of hospital infection</i> . 2002; 50 (1) :42-7	I and C does not meet PICO
Gordin, Fred M. and Schultz, Maureen E. and Huber, Ruth A. and Gill, Janet A. Reduction in nosocomial transmission of drug-resistant bacteria after introduction of an alcohol-based handrub. <i>Infection control and hospital epidemiology</i> . 2005; 26 (7) :650-3	C does not meet PICO

Herruzo, Rafael and Yela, Rubén and Vizcaino, Maria Jose Lasting hand self-disinfection: A backup for hospital hand hygiene?. American Journal of Infection Control. 2015; 43 (7) :697-701	I and C does not meet PICO
Heywood, Suzy Clostridium difficile. Nursing standard (Royal College of Nursing (Great Britain) : 1987). 2007; 22 (12) :59	Wrong language
Hsu, J. and Abad, C. and Dinh, M. and Safdar, N. Prevention of endemic healthcare-associated clostridium difficile infection: Reviewing the evidence. American Journal of Gastroenterology. 2010; 105 (11) :2327-2339	I and C does not meet PICO
Isaacson, Dylan and Haller, Barbara and Leslie, Hannah and Roemer, Marguerite and Winston, Lisa Novel handwashes are superior to soap and water in removal of Clostridium difficile spores from the hands. American journal of infection control. 2015; 43 (5) :530-2	I and C does not meet PICO
Jullian-Desayes, Ingrid and Landelle, Caroline and Mallaret, Marie-Reine and Brun-Buisson, Christian and Barbut, Frédéric Clostridium difficile contamination of health care workers' hands and its potential contribution to the spread of infection: Review of the literature. American Journal of Infection Control. 2017; 45 (1) :51-58	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Kaier, K. and Hagist, C. and Frank, U. and Conrad, A. and Meyer, E. Two time-series analyses of the impact of antibiotic consumption and alcohol-based hand disinfection on the incidences of nosocomial methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection and Clostridium difficile infection. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. 2009; 30 (4) :346-353	I and C does not meet PICO
Kampf, Günter and Ruselack, Sigunde and Eggerstedt, Sven and Nowak, Nicolas and Bashir, Muhammad Less and less-influence of volume on hand coverage and bactericidal efficacy in hand disinfection. BMC Infectious Diseases. 2013; 13 (1) :472-472	P, I and C does not meet PICO
Kar, Debjit and Das, Anupam and Sil, Abheek An upsurge of hand dermatitis cases amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Indian Journal of Dermatology. 2021; 66 (2) :218-220	P does not meet PICO
Kemper, Carol A. Wash your hands before eating!. Infectious Disease Alert. 2014; 33 (7) :83-83	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Khanafer, N. and Voirin, N. and Barbut, F. and Kuijper, E. and Vanhems, P. Hospital management of Clostridium difficile infection: A review of the literature. Journal of Hospital Infection. 2015; 90 (2) :91-101	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
King, S. Provision of alcohol hand rub at the hospital bedside: a case study. The Journal of hospital infection. 2004; 56 :S10-2	C does not meet PICO
Krishna, Amar and Chopra, Teena Prevention of Infection due to Clostridium (Clostridioides) difficile. Infectious disease clinics of North America. 2021; 35 (4) :995-1011	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Kundrapu, S. and Sunkesula, V. and Jury, L. A. and Sitzlar, B. M. and Donskey, C. J. Daily disinfection of high-touch surfaces in isolation rooms to reduce contamination of healthcare workers' hands. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. 2012; 33 (10) :1039-1042	I and C does not meet PICO
Lehtinen, J. M. and Kanerva, M. and Tarkka, E. and Ollgren, J. and Anttila, V. J. Low efficacy of three non-alcohol-based hand disinfectants utilizing silver polymer, lactic acid and benzalkonium chloride on inactivation of bacteria on the fingertips of healthcare workers. Journal of Hospital Infection. 2022; 125 :55-59	I and C does not meet PICO
Loo, Vivian G. Environmental interventions to control Clostridium difficile. Infectious disease clinics of North America. 2015; 29 (1) :83-91	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Louh, I. K. and Greendyke, W. G. and Hermann, E. A. and Davidson, K. W. and Falzon, L. and Vawdrey, D. K. and Shaffer, J. A. and Calfee, D. P. and Furuya, E. Y. and Ting, H. H. Clostridium Difficile Infection in Acute Care Hospitals: Systematic Review and Best	Wrong publication type - Narrative review

Practices for Prevention. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. 2017; 38 (4) :476-482	
Lucet, J. and Rigaud, M. and Mentre, F. and Kassis, N. and Deblangy, C. and Andremont, A. and Bouvet, E. Hand contamination before and after different hand hygiene techniques: a randomized clinical trial. Journal of Hospital Infection. 2002; 50 (4) :276-280	P does not meet PICO
MacLeod-Glover, N. and Sadowski, C. Efficacy of cleaning products for C difficile: Environmental strategies to reduce the spread of Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea in geriatric rehabilitation. Canadian Family Physician. 2010; 56 (5) :417-423	I and C does not meet PICO
Miller, M. A. Clostridium difficile-associated disease. Epidemiology, morbidity, mortality, and methods for control. Postgraduate medicine. 2001; 109 (2) :39-42	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Nerandzic MM, Sunkesula VC, C TS, Setlow P, Donskey CJ. Unlocking the Sporocidal Potential of Ethanol: Induced Sporocidal Activity of Ethanol against Clostridium difficile and Bacillus Spores under Altered Physical and Chemical Conditions. PLoS One. 2015 Jul 15;10(7):e0132805. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0132805. PMID: 26177038; PMCID: PMC4503543.	P does not meet PICO
Nerandzic, Michelle M. and Rackaityte, Elze and Jury, Lucy A. and Eckart, Kevin and Donskey, Curtis J. Novel strategies for enhanced removal of persistent Bacillus anthracis surrogates and Clostridium difficile spores from skin. PloS one. 2013; 8 (7) :e68706	P does not meet PICO
Nerandzic, Michelle M. and Sankar C, Thriveen and Setlow, Peter and Donskey, Curtis J. A Cumulative Spore Killing Approach: Synergistic Sporocidal Activity of Dilute Peracetic Acid and Ethanol at Low pH Against Clostridium difficile and Bacillus subtilis Spores. Open forum infectious diseases. 2016; 3 (1) :ofv206	P, I and C does not meet PICO
Ngam, Caitlyn and Schoofs Hundt, Ann and Haun, Nicholas and Carayon, Pascale and Stevens, Linda and Safdar, Nasia Barriers and facilitators to Clostridium difficile infection prevention: A nursing perspective. American journal of infection control. 2017; 45 (12) :1363-1368	I and C does not meet PICO
Papanikolopoulou, A. and Maltezou, H. C. and Gargalianos-Kakolyris, P. and Pangalis, A. and Pantazis, N. and Pantos, C. and Tountas, Y. and Tsakris, A. and Kantzanou, M. Association between consumption of antibiotics, infection control interventions and Clostridioides difficile infections: Analysis of six-year time-series data in a tertiary-care hospital in Greece. Infection, Disease and Health. 2022; 27 (3) :119-128	I and C does not meet PICO
Petrosillo, N. and Capone, A. Data on alcohol hand rubs are equivocal. BMJ: British Medical Journal (International Edition). 2007; 334 (7598) :814-814	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Prasad, Paritosh and Brown, Lynne and Ma, Shiyang and McDavid, Andrew and Rudmann, Andrew and Lent, David and Reagan-Webster, Patricia and Valcin, E. Kate and Graman, Paul and Apostolakis, Michael "If the glove fits": Hospital-wide universal gloving is associated with improved hand hygiene and may reduce Clostridioides difficile infection. Infection control and hospital epidemiology. 2021; 42 (11) :1351-1355	I and C does not meet PICO
Ragusa, R. and Giorgianni, G. and Lupo, L. and Sciacca, A. and Rametta, S. and La Verde, M. and Mule, S. and Marranzano, M. Healthcare-associated Clostridium difficile infection: role of correct hand hygiene in cross-infection control. Journal of preventive medicine and hygiene. 2018; 59 (2) :E145-E152	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Rubin, Zachary A. and Martin, Elise M. and Allyn, Paul Primary Prevention of Clostridium difficile-Associated Diarrhea: Current Controversies and Future Tools. Current infectious disease reports. 2018; 20 (9) :32	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Rupp, M. E. and Fitzgerald, T. and Puumala, S. and Anderson, J. R. and Craig, R. and Iwen, P. C. and Jourdan, D. and Keuchel, J. and Marion, N. and Peterson, D. and	I and C does not meet PICO

Sholtz, L. and Smith, V. Prospective, controlled, cross-over trial of alcohol-based hand gel in critical care units. <i>Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology</i> . 2008; 29 (1) :8-15	
Savage, T. J. and Sandora, T. J. Clostridioides difficile infection in children: The role of infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship. <i>Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society</i> . 2021; 10 :S64-S68	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Silversides, Ann Public reports of infection rates urged. <i>CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne</i> . 2009; 181 (9) :573-4	P does not meet PICO
Stone SP, Fuller C, Savage J, Cookson B, Hayward A, Cooper B, Duckworth G, Michie S, Murray M, Jeanes A, Roberts J, Teare L, Charlett A. Evaluation of the national Cleanyourhands campaign to reduce Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia and Clostridium difficile infection in hospitals in England and Wales by improved hand hygiene: four year, prospective, ecological, interrupted time series study. <i>BMJ</i> . 2012 May 3;344:e3005. doi: 10.1136/bmj.e3005. PMID: 22556101; PMCID: PMC3343183.	I and C does not meet PICO
Stuart, R. L. and Marshall, C. and McLaws, M. L. and Boardman, C. and Russo, P. L. and Harrington, G. and Ferguson, J. K. ASID/AICA position statement - Infection control guidelines for patients with Clostridium difficile infection in healthcare settings. <i>Healthcare Infection</i> . 2011; 16 (1) :33-39	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Stuart, Rhonda L. and Marshall, Caroline and McLaws, Mary-Louise and Boardman, Claire and Russo, Philip L. and Harrington, Glenys and Ferguson, John K. ASID/AICA position statement -- Infection control guidelines for patients with Clostridium difficile infection in healthcare settings. <i>Healthcare Infection</i> . 2011; 16 (1) :33-39	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Tomas, Myreen E. and Sunkesula, Venkata C. K. and Kundrapu, Sirisha and Wilson, Brigid M. and Donskey, Curtis J. An intervention to reduce health care personnel hand contamination during care of patients with Clostridium difficile infection. <i>American Journal of Infection Control</i> . 2015; 43 (12) :1366-1367	I and C does not meet PICO
Tyski, S. and Bocian, E. and Laudy, A. E. Application of normative documents for determination of biocidal activity of disinfectants and antiseptics dedicated to the medical area: a narrative review. <i>Journal of Hospital Infection</i> . 2022; 125 :75-91	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Vernaz, Nathalie and Sax, Hugo and Pittet, Didier and Bonnabry, Pascal and Schrenzel, Jacques and Harbarth, Stephan Temporal effects of antibiotic use and hand rub consumption on the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile. <i>The Journal of antimicrobial chemotherapy</i> . 2008; 62 (3) :601-7	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Vonberg, R. P. and Kuijper, E. J. and Wilcox, M. H. and Barbut, F. and Tull, P. and Gastmeier, P. and European, C. difficile-Infection Control Group and European Centre for Disease, Prevention and Control and van den Broek, P. J. and Colville, A. and Coignard, B. and Dahan, T. and Debast, S. and Duerden, B. I. and van den Hof, S. and van der Kooi, T. and Maarleveld, H. J. H. and Nagy, E. and Notermans, D. W. and O'Driscoll, J. and Patel, B. and Stone, S. and Wiuff, C. Infection control measures to limit the spread of Clostridium difficile. <i>Clinical microbiology and infection : the official publication of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases</i> . 2008; 14 :2-20	Wrong publication type - Narrative review
Whitaker, J. and Brown, B. S. and Vidal, S. and Calcaterra, M. Designing a protocol that eliminates Clostridium difficile: A collaborative venture. <i>American Journal of Infection Control</i> . 2007; 35 (5) :310-314	I and C does not meet PICO
Wilcox, M. H. and Fawley, W. N. and Wigglesworth, N. and Parnell, P. and Verity, P. and Freeman, J. Comparison of the effect of detergent versus hypochlorite cleaning on environmental contamination and incidence of Clostridium difficile infection. <i>The Journal of hospital infection</i> . 2003; 54 (2) :109-14	I and C does not meet PICO

Wong-Mcclure, Roy A. and Guevara-Rodríguez, Moraima and Abarca-Gómez, Leandra and Solano-Chinchilla, Antonio and Marchena-Picado, Margarita and O'shea, Michele and Badilla-Vargas, Xiomara Clostridium difficile outbreak in Costa Rica: control actions and associated factors. Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública. 2012; 32 (6) :413-418	I and C does not meet PICO
You, Eunsung and Song, Hyoyeop and Cho, Jihyun and Lee, Jaehoon Reduction in the incidence of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infection through infection control interventions other than the restriction of antimicrobial use. International journal of infectious diseases : IJID : official publication of the International Society for Infectious Diseases. 2014; 22 :9-10	I and C does not meet PICO