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Media Release

For immediate release

Over 1,000 healthcare staff take part in activities to commemorate the ILTC sector's first-ever Hand Hygiene Day

SINGAPORE, 5 May 2011 - Hand Hygiene Day is an annual event celebrated on 5 May in over 12,000 healthcare facilities worldwide. It is part of the World Health Organisation's campaign, "Save Lives: Clean Your Hands". The Day recognises the importance of supporting healthcare workers in improving and sustaining hand hygiene practices to reduce the spread of potentially life-threatening healthcare-associated infections, hence improving patient safety.

For the first time ever, Singapore's intermediate and long-term care (ILTC) sector observed this meaningful campaign by taking part in specially-organised activities: hand hygiene training and assessment sessions and slogan and song contests.

The hand hygiene training sessions, held all over the island, were organised by Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) with sponsorship from Schülke. Commencing on 3 March, the training sessions saw a participation of over 1,000 ILTC healthcare workers from 45 organisations (comprising community hospitals, nursing homes, day rehabilitation centres, hospices, home care organisations, etc*).

One of the participants, Ms Zhou Li Wei, a Staff Nurse from Ren Ci Hospital said, "using proper hand hygiene technique is important in my daily work as a nurse, even though I had learnt these techniques before, [the session] was very useful to refresh my knowledge in this area."

Echoing her view was Rehabilitation Manager and Physiotherapist, Ms Lei Lei Swe from Tembusu Rehab Centre who added that receiving resources such as posters showing proper hand hygiene technique and when to use them was beneficial as they could put these up at her centre to reinforce this integral practice.

Ms Marviolet Pagador Baltazar, Nurse Clinician at All Saints Home also felt that the assessment component gave participants an assurance that what they have been doing is comprehensive and accurate.

In addition to training sessions, AIC also organised a slogan and song contest[^]. Winners were recognised and presented their prizes at a ceremony held at Ren Ci Hospital on Thursday morning.

AIC is proud to have organised this series of activities to commemorate Hand Hygiene Day with the ILTC sector. Dr Jennifer Lee, Chairman of AIC said, "it is important for healthcare professionals in the ILTC sector to constantly refresh and upgrade their skills so that they are able to provide good quality of care. Thus AIC is happy to play a part in galvanising the sector for such learning and knowledge-sharing opportunities."

*Refer to Annex A for a list of organisations that participated in hand hygiene training and assessment sessions

[^]Refer to Annex B for the list of winners for the slogan and song contests

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About the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) *to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration*. Our mission is to achieve best health outcomes for our patients by empowering clients and coordinating access to appropriate care, enable stakeholders to strengthen the primary and community care sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.

Annex A

Organisations that have participated in Hand Hygiene Training and Assessment sessions

1. Adventist Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre
2. Alzheimer's Disease Association - New Horizon Centre
3. All Saints Home
4. Ang Mo Kio - Thye Hua Kwan Hospital
5. Bethany Methodist Nursing Home
6. Bright Hill Evergreen Home
7. Bright Vision Hospital
8. Econ Medicare Centre
9. Green Avenue Home for the Elderly
10. Handicaps Welfare Association
11. HCA Hospice Care
12. Home Nursing Foundation
13. Ju Eng Home for Senior Citizens
14. Kidney Dialysis Foundation Limited
15. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital
16. L.C. Nursing Home
17. Man Fut Tong Nursing Home
18. Marine Parade - Aspiration for Elderly Lodge
19. Metta Day Rehabilitation Centre For the Elderly
20. Moonlight Home for the Aged & Handicapped
21. Moral Home for the Aged Sick
22. Muhammadiyah Health and Day Care for Senior Citizens
23. National Kidney Foundation
24. Paean Nursing Home Pte Ltd
25. PCF 3-in-1 Family Centre
26. Ren Ci Hospital
27. Salem Day Rehabilitation Centre for the Elderly
28. Sata CommHealth
29. Serene Nursing Home Pte Ltd
30. Singapore Anglican Community Services (Simei Care Centre)
31. Singapore Association for Mental Health
32. Singapore Christian Home for the Aged
33. Society for the Physically Disabled
34. Singapore Cancer Society
35. Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick
36. St Andrew's Community Hospital
37. St Luke's Eldercare (Serangoon)
38. Sunlove Home
39. Tai Pei Old People's Home
40. Tai Pei Social Service
41. Tembusu Rehab Centre
42. The Lentor Residence
43. Thong Teck Home for Senior Citizens
44. United Medicare Centre
45. Villa Francis Home for the Aged

Annex B

Slogan Contest Winners

First Prize

“Hand Hygiene means... a rub and a scrub to kill the bug!”
Dr Deepthika De Silva from St Andrew’s Community Hospital

Second Prize

“Hand Hygiene means... give me five to a healthy life!”
Ms Leslie Pearl Mejares from Man Fut Tong Nursing Home

Third Prize

“Hand Hygiene means... be aware, wash with care!”
Ms Norhayati Binte Muhd Sugianto from Ju Eng Home for Senior Citizens

Song Contest Winners

Joint Winners

Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens
Bright Vision Hospital