

## *PhD projects at the Research Group of Medical Geography & Public Health*

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# Infection Prevention Research: Physician adherence to hand hygiene

**Keywords:**

**Hand hygiene, Compliance, Infection control, Nosocomial infections, Behavioural sciences**

### Summary

Physician adherence to hand hygiene remains unacceptably low despite its 150 year-old history and some costly campaigns. This leads to dramatic consequences, i.e. the cross-transmission of multidrug-resistant bacteria, a high rate of nosocomial infections and thus an enormous financial burden for the health care system. Hand hygiene is recognized as the single most important measure in order to prevent these problems.

A cross-sectional study using an anonymous questionnaire based on the Theory of planned behaviour (Ajzen 2001) will be conducted in four general hospitals in Bonn to assess determinants of physician adherence to hand hygiene.

The study aims at suggesting an effective promotional strategy in order to increase adherence rates.



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*Hand print on nutrient agar*



*Hygienic hand disinfection*



*Brasilian Campaign  
„Your hands can be dangerous“*

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