[0005] Healthcare institutions seek to prevent and control the spread of HAIs. One important aspect of such efforts is seeking to ensure that health care professionals comply with hand hygiene best practices. Hand hygiene can be accomplished by washing with soap and water and by using liquids such as a sanitizing product which does not require water or rinsing of the product.

[0006] Hand hygiene is also recognized as essential in the food industry to prevent the spread of foodborne bacteria and/or viruses including Norovirus, the Hepatitis A virus, Salmonella Typhi, Shigella spp., and Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 or other Enterohemorrhagic or Shiga toxin-producing E. coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella spp. and Streptococcus pyogenes. Hand washing by food employees is essential after activities that contaminate hands and before activities during which pathogens may be spread to food.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006a] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for predetermining the benchmark number of hand hygiene opportunities for a target facility;

determining a study benchmark number of hand hygiene opportunities in a studied facility during an observation period;

identifying studied facility characteristics of the studied facility during the observation period;

identifying study relationships between studied facility characteristics and the study number of hand hygiene opportunities;

determining target facility characteristics for the target facility; and determining a benchmark number of hand hygiene opportunities for the target facility based on study relationships and target facility characteristics.

[0007] ~~An aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns assuring that workers conform to best practices for hand hygiene.

[0008] ~~Another aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns determining the compliance of workers with hand hygiene guidelines within a facility that requires hand hygiene.

[0009] ~~Yet another aspect~~Embodiements of the invention concerns determining the compliance of healthcare workers with hand hygiene guidelines within a healthcare institution.

[0010] ~~An additional aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns determining the compliance of workers with hand hygiene guidelines within individual areas of a facility in which different activities that require hand hygiene occur at different locations within that facility.

[0011] ~~Still another aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns determining the compliance of healthcare workers with hand hygiene guidelines within individual areas of a healthcare institution.

[0012] ~~Yet an additional aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns determining the amount of hand hygiene activity within a facility that is consistent with hand hygiene guidelines.

[0013] ~~Another aspect~~Embodiments of the invention concerns determining the amount of hand hygiene activity within an area of a healthcare facility that is consistent with hand hygiene guidelines.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Fig. 1 is a sketch showing the five moments for hand hygiene in a healthcare setting.

[0015] Fig. 2 is a graph of the observed number of observed hand hygiene opportunities per patient day vs. the average number of patients per nurse and a linear relationship between them based on regression analysis.

[0016] Fig. 3 is a graph of the observed number of hand hygiene opportunities per 24 hour period and a comparison showing that the video monitoring benchmark and the benchmark based on the original HOW2 study are statistically equivalent.

[0017] Fig. 4 is a graph of hand hygiene compliances based on direct observation, video observation and on dispenser usage utilizing a calculated benchmark.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0018] The invention concerns monitoring compliance with hand hygiene guidelines by workers. In one aspect, the invention concerns estimating the number of hand hygiene events that should occur within an area during a period of time. The present invention is described hereinafter by reference to the accompanying drawings and the following description that disclose embodiments of the invention. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein or to any aspect of that embodiment. Rather, this embodiment is an example of the invention, which has the full scope indicated by the claims.