Scottish Infection Research Network

The Infection Control Viewpoint
What influences behaviour?
What makes some HCW apply IC principles and others not?

– Age
– Gender
– Defence of your personal autonomy
– How education has been delivered
– Banding
– Personal experience of the consequences of infection
– Is it perceived as less of a priority in particular clinical areas
In organisations which factors promote, support and regulate infection control?

– Do the ‘sharp end’ and the ‘blunt end’ of the organisation reflect each others priorities.
– Is the feedback of data the only way to change practice? Regulation, e.g. seat-belt legislation, hand hygiene.
– Are there systems in place to support the application of change, if not how do we influence managers.
What influences individuals who have resistant attitudes and behaviours which work to prevent change in target behaviour?

• Gender, age etc but
• What factors, issues, beliefs have contributed to these resistant attitudes or behaviours

Suggested five steps to change behaviour:
- Do an environmental scan – “cannot manage what you cannot measure”
- Understand current behaviour – Tan et al antibiotic prophylaxis
- Target behaviour for change
  - why (rationale)
  - what (intervention) – one thing at a time
  - when (trigger)
  - where (high risk environment or point in the care chain)
  - who
- Accept that this might not work in all areas and adapt
- Synergise – feedback, feedback, feedback – key stakeholders
MRSA - Patients

Information

– How much do patients actually understand? Compare written to verbal communication

– Would either improve patients satisfaction with the service, or reduce complaints.

– Communication with the wider community, debate regarding relative risks – what influences what the population believes.
MRSA - Research Topics

- Single rooms or standard precautions
- Risk factors for predicting MRSA colonisation
“All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)