

Table 2. Mean scores for items on the hand hygiene beliefs scale

Item	Statement	Mean (SD) score on item	Loading factor
1	I have a duty to act as a role model for other health care workers	4.34 (0.92)	0.53
2	When busy it is more important to complete my tasks than to perform hand hygiene	3.68 (1.21)	0.24
3	Performing hand hygiene in the recommended situations can reduce patient mortality	4.49 (0.74)	0.55
4	Performing hand hygiene in the recommended situations can reduce medical costs associated with hospital- acquired infections	4.58 (0.71)	0.59
5	I can't always perform hand hygiene in recommended situations because my patient's needs come first ^a	3.53 (1.14)	0.24

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Item	Statement	Mean (SD) score on item	Loading factor
6	Prevention of hospital-acquired infection is a valuable part of a health care worker's role	4.61 (0.70)	0.68
7	I follow the example of senior health care workers when deciding whether or not to perform hand hygiene ^a	2.96 (1.32)	-0.05
8	I believe I have the power to change poor practices in the workplace	3.76 (0.94)	0.43
9	Failure to perform hand hygiene in the recommended situations can be considered negligence	4.18 (0.85)	0.45
10	Hand hygiene is a habit for me in my personal life	4.49 (0.66)	0.65
11	I am confident I can effectively apply my knowledge of hand hygiene to my clinical practice	4.35 (0.76)	0.63
12	It is an effort to remember to perform hand hygiene in the recommended situations ^a	3.59 (1.13)	0.30
13	I would feel uncomfortable reminding a health professional to wash their hands ^a	2.94 (1.31)	0.04
14	If I disagree with a guideline I look for research findings to guide my practice	3.83 (0.95)	0.54
15	Performing hand hygiene slows down building immunity to disease ^a	3.40 (1.31)	0.19
16	Dirty sinks can be a reason for not washing hands ^a	2.83 (1.26)	0.04
17	Lack of an acceptable soap product can be a reason for not cleansing hands ^a	2.75 (1.29)	0.02
18	Performing hand hygiene after caring for a wound can protect from infections	4.48 (0.86)	0.66
19	Cleansing hands after going to the toilet can reduce transmission of infectious disease ^a	4.73 (0.51)	0.66

Scale: 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree.

SD = standard deviation.

^aIndicates that the item is reverse coded.