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The relationship between HCW surface contacts, care type and hand hygiene: An observational study in a single-bed hospital ward

M.-F. King, C.J. Noakes, P.A. Sleigh, S. Bale, L. Waters

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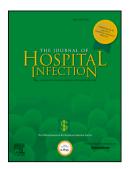
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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# The relationship between HCW surface contacts, care type and hand hygiene: An observational study in a single-bed hospital ward

M-F King<sup>1</sup>, C.J. Noakes<sup>1</sup>, P.A. Sleigh<sup>1</sup>, S. Bale<sup>2</sup>, L. Waters<sup>2</sup>

- 1 Institute of Public Health and Environmental Engineering, School of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds,
- 2 Leeds LS2 9JT, UK. E-mail: <u>m.f.king@leeds.ac.uk</u>. Tel: +44 113 343 31957, Fax: +44 113 343 2265
- 3 2 Research & Development Department, The Friars, Newport, South Wales, NP20 4EZ, UK.
- 4 Running title: Surface contact count as an indicator of hand hygiene

### 5 **Summary:**

- 6 This study quantifies relationships between hand hygiene and the frequency with which
- 7 healthcare workers (HCWs) touch surfaces in patient rooms.
- 8 Surface contacts and hand hygiene were recorded in a single-bed UK hospital ward for six
- 9 care types. Surface contacts often formed non-random patterns, but hygiene before or after
- patient contact depends significantly on care-type (p=0.001). Hygiene likelihood correlated
- with the number of surface contacts (CI 1.1-5.8, p=0.002), but not time spent in the room.
- 12 This highlights that a potential subconscious need for hand hygiene may have developed in
- HCWs, which may support and help focus future hygiene education programmes.
- 14 Keywords: Hospital acquired infection, hand hygiene, surface contacts

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