**Presentation title:**

Hand Hygiene in General Practice: how do we compare to the hand hygiene Australia (HHA) audit data for public and private hospitals.

**Abstract** (max. 300 words):

Aim: To audit the hand hygiene practices of staff in primary care settings to determine adherence to the 5 moments of hand hygiene and how this compares to national hospital data obtained by Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA).

Background: HHA is a well-established organization that independently collects data through the use of self-audit reporting to determine national adherence to the 5 moments of hand hygiene in private and public hospitals. Currently, the overall average between all health professionals is 80% however there is a lack of data obtained from primary care settings. The colleges and AGPAL have a unified stance on the application of the 5 steps of hand hygiene in clinical practice however there is no recommendation for practices to appoint dedicated HHA auditors or any requirement to evaluate adherence to this fundamental process.

A proposal for suitable auditing practices would involve each practice nominating a hand hygiene auditor to complete online accreditation modules available through HHA, which provide a standardized approach to the 5 moments of hand hygiene we experience as clinicians. A ‘day of auditing’ would allow the auditor to pass through the clinic and take a cross section of moments from all clinicians in varying settings. All results from primary care settings should be consolidated to observe a global community practice average, which could be used for comparative purposes.

Results from this auditing process would give regulatory bodies such as AGPAL and the colleges the ability to promote mandatory hand hygiene modules to be completed by all community health-care staff as well as foster a sense of responsibility and accountability to provide care in keeping with the 5 moments of hand hygiene.