

Hand hygiene compliance update: Quarter 1, 2019/2020

(April 1, 2019–June 28, 2019)

Mission: To create a comprehensive provincial program that will improve and sustain hand hygiene culture, in order to decrease the transmission of healthcare-associated infections in BC healthcare facilities.

What is hand cleaning?

Hand cleaning means using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water to kill or remove germs on hand surfaces.

Why is hand cleaning important?

Both patients in acute care facilities and residents in long term care facilities are vulnerable to healthcare-associated infections, a leading cause of death for people receiving care within our healthcare system. Germs can easily be transmitted through direct person-to-person contact, or by touching contaminated surfaces or equipment. Hand cleaning is a simple and effective way of reducing the spread of germs, and is the responsibility of all individuals involved, including patients/residents, visitors, and healthcare providers.

Why do we measure hand cleaning compliance?

Healthcare providers, including nursing staff, physicians, clinical support services, and others such as housekeeping staff, should lead by example in maintaining good hand hygiene. They move frequently between patients/ residents, and from room to room, while providing care or working in the patient/resident's room. This movement provides many chances for germs to be spread by hands. Monitoring hand cleaning practice is vital to improve compliance and, in turn, reduce infections in healthcare settings.

How do we measure hand cleaning compliance?

Every quarter, trained auditors observe a sample of healthcare providers, and record whether they clean their hands at the appropriate times, i.e. before and after touching a patient or the patient's immediate environment (e.g., changing bed linen, holding a bed rail, clearing a bedside table, etc.). The percentage score reports how often healthcare providers clean their hands when required to do so during an audit. Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand cleaning.

Why is the compliance being publicly reported?

Improving hand cleaning compliance is a key measure to reduce healthcare-associated infections. Reporting on performance provides transparency to the public, and assists healthcare facilities in care quality improvement.

How are we doing?

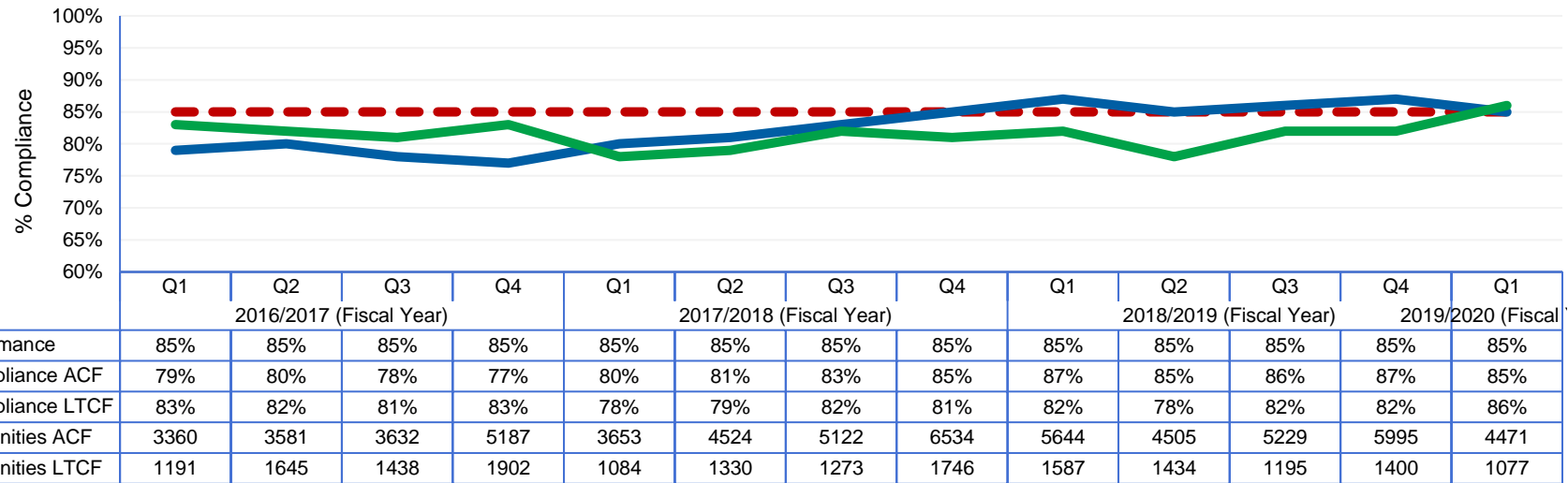
The overall NH hand hygiene in acute care at 85% compliance and Long Term care is consistent at 86%, compliance before and after contact with a patient or the patient's immediate environment is at 80%, and 90% respectively. The compliance among physicians has remained lower than other healthcare providers.

What are we doing to improve compliance?

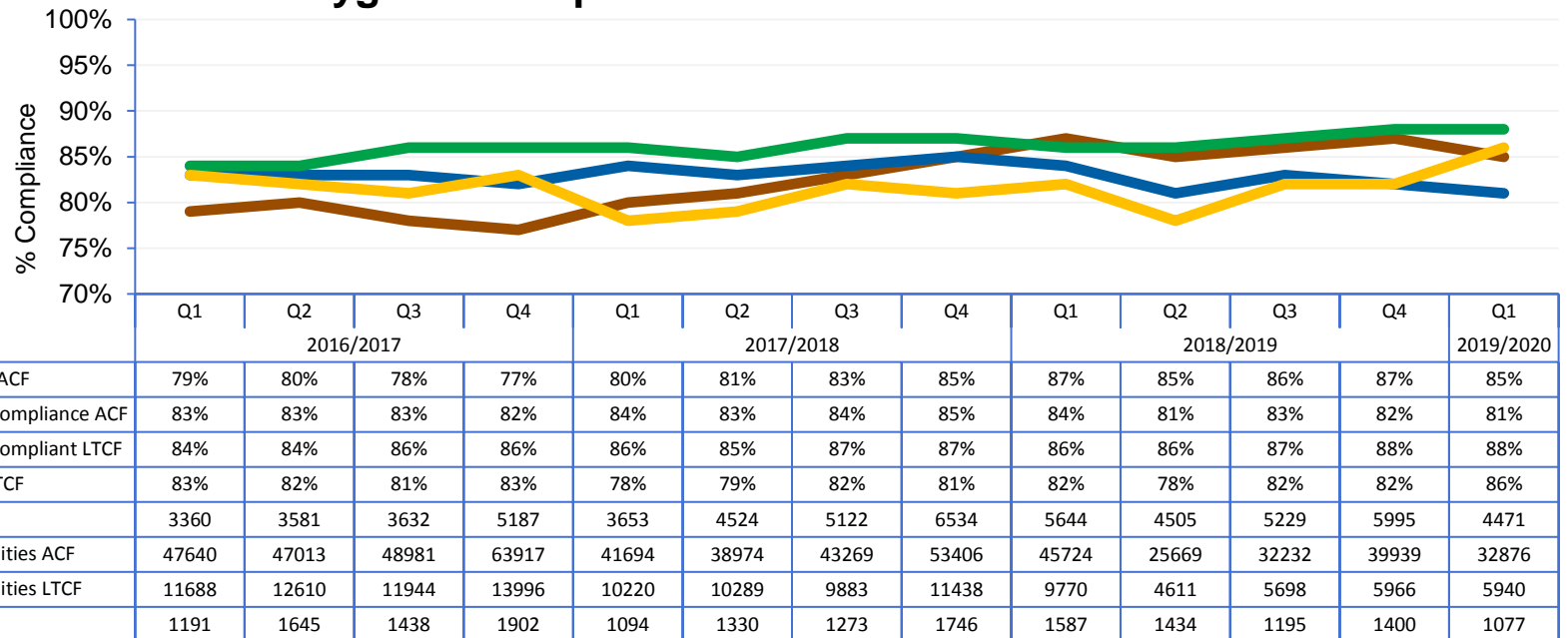
1. Encouraging all healthcare providers to incorporate hand cleaning into their practice routines
2. Ensuring that hand cleaning products are readily available for all staff, patients, and residents
3. Reporting performance back to unit staff, senior leaders, physicians, and the public
4. Targeting educational and promotional activities to increase hand cleaning knowledge and awareness
5. Identifying new initiatives and opportunities to improve the compliance before patient contact and to engage physicians more effectively

Northern Health Performance		Target	Expectation
Acute Care	85%	85%	100%
Long Term Care	86%		
	Of hand cleaning opportunities taken	Of hand cleaning opportunities taken	We will seek perfection while recognizing positive improvement

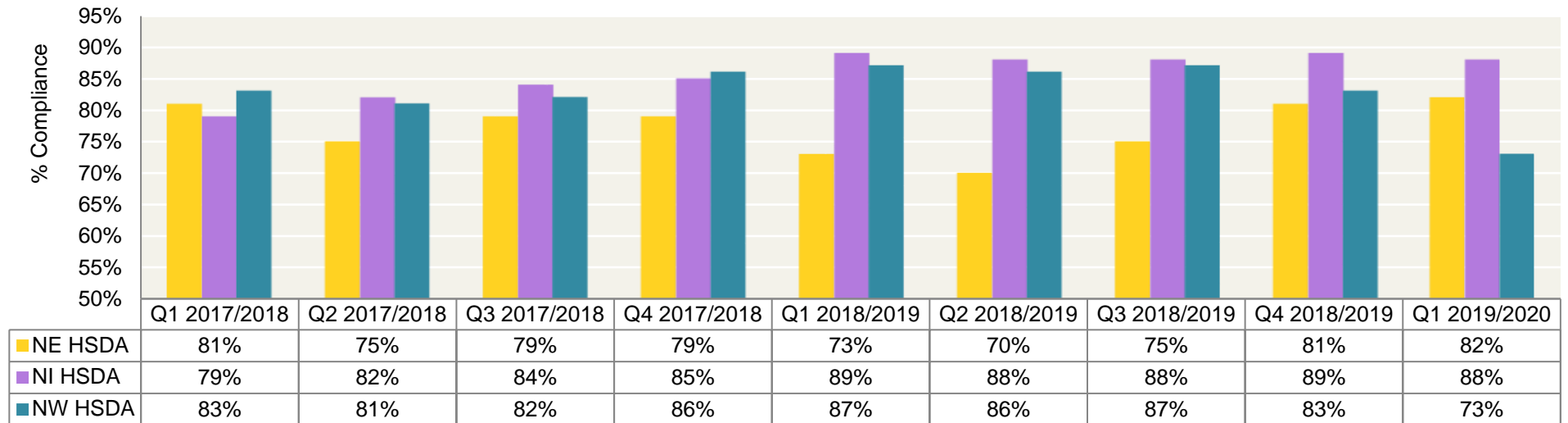
Hand Hygiene Compliance – Northern Health



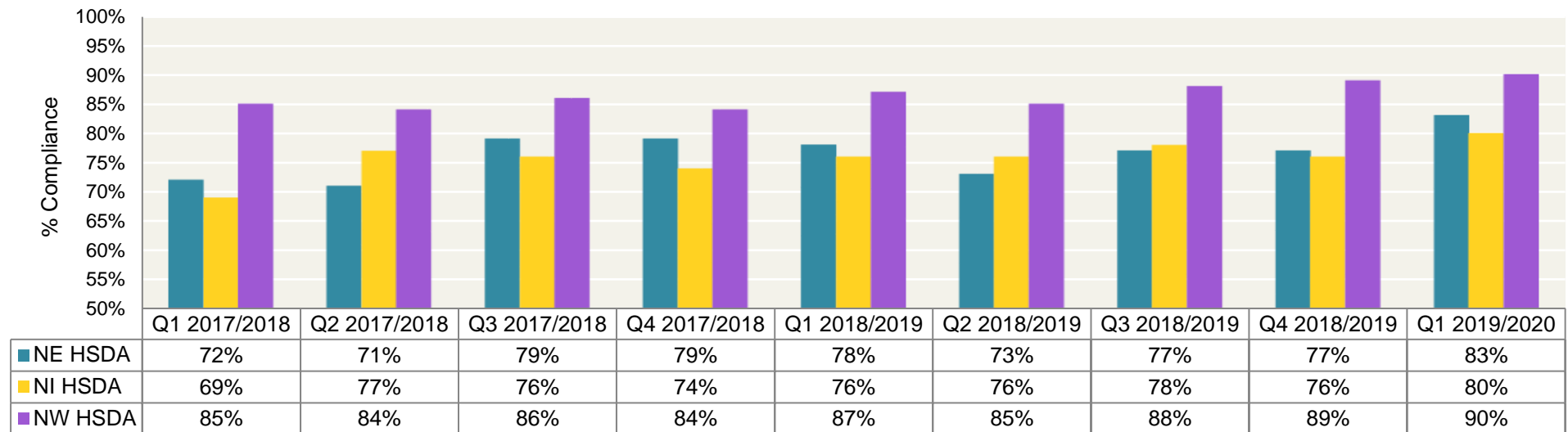
Hand Hygiene Compliance - NHA & Province of BC



Hand Hygiene Compliance in Northern Health per HSDA - ACF

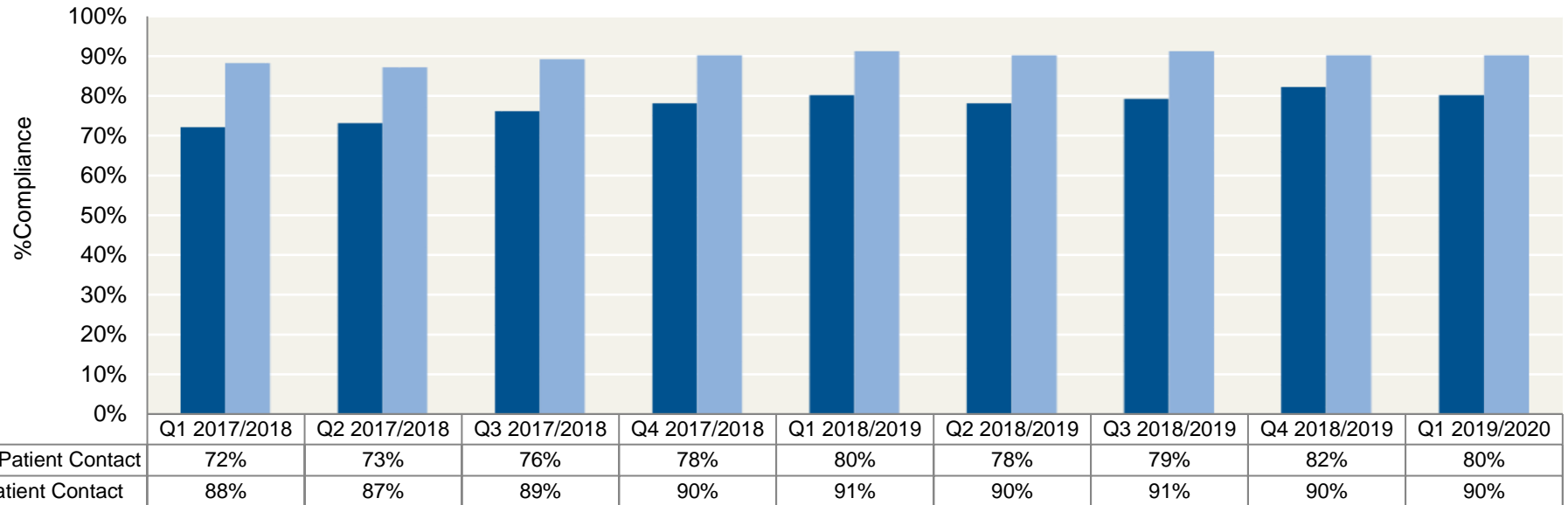


Hand Hygiene Compliance in Northern Health per HSDA - LTCF

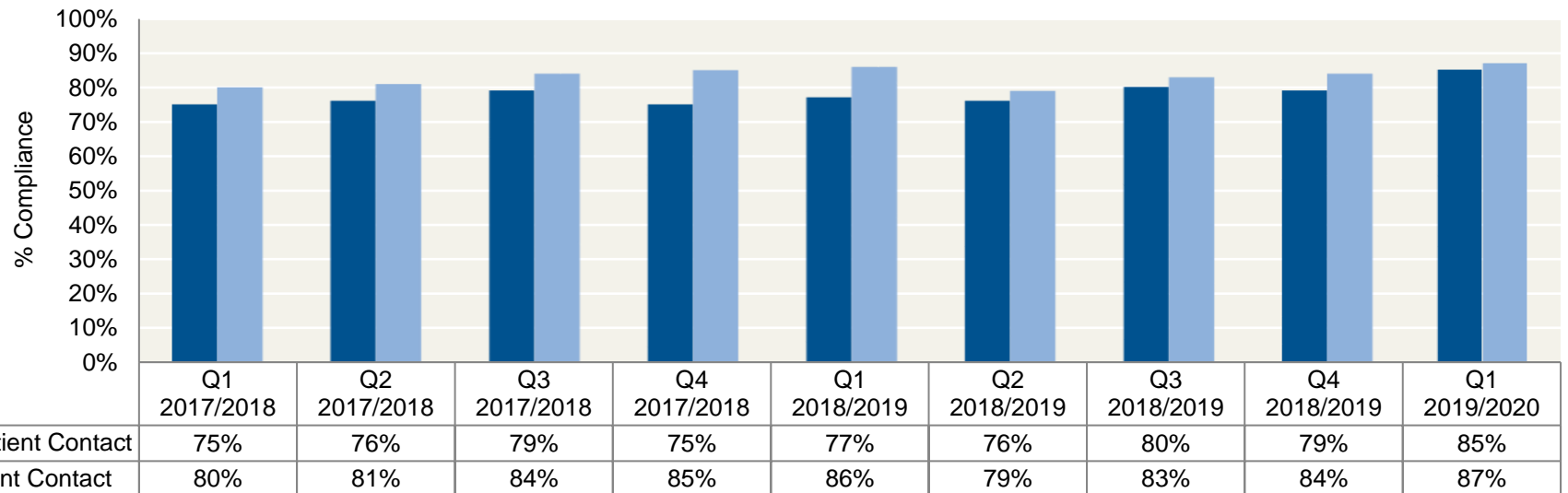


Legend: **ACF** – Acute Care Facility **LTCF** – Long Term Care Facility

Hand Hygiene Compliance in Northern Health – Acute Care Before and After Patient Contact



Hand Hygiene Compliance in Northern Health – LTCF Before and After Patient Contact



Hand Hygiene Compliance in Northern Health per Healthcare Provider

