



Contact Investigations for Highly-Resistant Microorganisms (HRMO): a Mixed-methods Analysis of Patients' Comprehension of and Self-reported Compliance with (Self-)sampling Requests Post discharge.

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BACKGROUND & AIM

When a Highly-Resistant Microorganism (HRMO) is unexpectedly found in a clinical culture of a patient, **contact investigation** is an important tool to identify other, unrecognized, colonized patients. Many **Dutch hospitals include contact patients that are already discharged**. These contact patients receive a (self-)sampling request at home, including a letter with materials and instructions.

This study aimed: to provide insight into patients' comprehension of and self-reported compliance with HRMO (self-)sampling requests post-discharge.

METHODS

Multicentre study with a mixed-methods approach:
8 hospitals in the South-western region of the Netherlands.



1. Letter analysis:

- 15 (self-)sampling request letters from different hospitals.
- The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) language level was determined.



2. Questionnaires:

- Random selection of patients that received a (self-)sampling request letter from their hospital in 2018/2019 (n=664). Determine discharged patients':
 - Comprehension of the letter
 - Self-reported compliance with (self-)sampling request
 - Reasons for (non-)compliance.



3. Semi-structured interviews:

- Random selection of questionnaire respondents (n=29).
- Gain insights in letter comprehension and reasons for (non-)compliance.

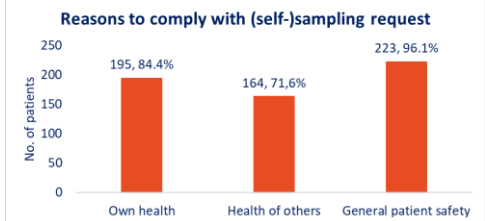
RESULTS

1. Letter analysis

- 4 letters CEFR-level B1.
- 4 letters CEFR-level B1-B2.
- 7 letters CEFR-level B2.

2. Questionnaire

- **Response rate:** 237/664 patients, 35.7%
 - MRSA; **100** patients, 42.2%
 - VRE; **90** patients, 38.0%
 - CPE; **25** patients, 10.5%
 - *Acinetobacter baumannii*; **13** patients, 5.5%
 - *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; **9** patients, 3.8%.
- **High self-reported compliance:** 207/235 patients, 88.8%.



- More patients **did not comply** with (self-)sampling requests when **receiving a letter in a higher CEFR-level (B2)** compared to a lower CEFR-level (<B2) (9.8% vs. 2.5%), although non-compliant numbers were small.

CONCLUSIONS

Patients showed an overall **good comprehension** of and **high self-reported compliance** with contact investigations post-discharge.

However, **the language level** in communication to patients should receive **more attention** when involving patients in infection prevention.

Table 1 Patients' comprehension of (self-)sampling request letter.

Question	N	%
Was the information about the contact investigation clear at the time? (n=229)		
Yes	206	90.0%
No/Partially	23	10.0%
Did you find the information about the bacteria clear at the time? (n=230)		
Yes	188	81.7%
No/Partially	42	18.3%
Did you find the information about taking the swabs clear at the time? (n=228)		
Yes	206	90.4%
No/Partially	22	9.6%
Was it clear how you would get the results of the screening? (n=230)		
Yes	187	81.3%
No/Partially	43	18.7%

- 3. **Semi-structured interviews** Qualitative analysis is ongoing.

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