INTRODUCTION
Evidence that hand hygiene (HH) reduces healthcare-associated infections is widely available. However there is variability in HH practice between health professions. There is also a lack of research about human factors (HF) that predict adherence to HH behaviours in medical students in clinical contexts, despite there being a good rationale for improving HH early on in doctors’ training, to establish ‘automatic’ HH behaviours for the future.

RESEARCH AIM:
The aims of this pilot study are to provide baseline data regarding predictors of HH intentions and to provide baseline data regarding the barriers and levers to HH practice between health professions. There is also a lack of research about human factors (HF) that predict adherence to HH behaviours in medical students in clinical contexts, despite there being a good rationale for improving HH early on in doctors’ training, to establish ‘automatic’ HH behaviours for the future.

METHODS:
An online cross-sectional survey was developed based on Health Psychology and Human Factors models, including Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) and Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF) and The Barriers and Levers to Hand Hygiene Instrument (BALHHI), mapped onto a HF model. Data analysis involved correlations between constructs and multiple regression analysis, using a systems engineering model of patient safety (SEIPS).

QUALITATIVE:
Semi-structured ‘Think Aloud/Self-Explanatory’ interviews were carried out with 9 volunteer MBChB students, describing their HH performance during a clinical based ward simulation exercise (WSE) at the Clinical Skills Centre at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School.

RESULTS
The responses to the Barriers and Levers to Hand Hygiene Instrument (BALHHI) suggest that knowledge & skills, the influence of professional role, beliefs about consequences, their own motivation & goals and the emotions resulting from not performing hand hygiene are levers to performing hand hygiene. The only barrier highlighted was memory and attention levels.

REFERENCES
3. The Barriers and Levers to Hand Hygiene Instrument (Dyson, Chesser, Jackson and Lawton, 2009).