

Improving Hand Hygiene Practice

This is a Required Organization Practice (ROP) for Accreditation

WHY IS HAND HYGIENE IMPORTANT? WHY IS ITS COMPLIANCE MONITORED?

Hand Hygiene is a required practice!

- Hand hygiene is the single most important practice in preventing the spread of infections.
- Hand hygiene is a shared responsibility for all health care workers, clients and visitors.
- Monitoring hand hygiene (e.g. hand hygiene audits) and improving hand hygiene practices decreases healthcare associated infections.

THE 4 MOMENTS OF HAND HYGIENE

1. *Before initial contact with a client or client's environment*
2. *Before a clean or aseptic procedure*
3. *After exposure or risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids*
4. *After contact with a client or client's environment*

HAND HYGIENE AUDITING (HANDY AUDITS)

- Direct observation (i.e. audits) is the best method to measure compliance with hand hygiene practices
- Hand Hygiene auditors are provided a minimum number of HH observations per quarter based on the bed number at your site.
- The ultimate goal for HH compliance is 100% with a minimal target of 80% compliance

Test Your Knowledge with questions surveyors may ask staff:

- *Does SH-SS have a standardized Hand Hygiene Policy and where is it located?*
- *How are you made aware of the hand hygiene audit results?*
- *How are families and visitors taught hand hygiene?*
- *How are Handy Audit results used to make improvements?*

(see page 2 for answer key)

To learn more, you can speak to your manager/direct supervisor or your Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) team!

Does SH-SS have a standardized Hand Hygiene Policy and where is it located?

Yes, SH-SS does have a [Hand Hygiene Policy](#) and it is available on StaffNet under Policies and Forms

How are you made aware of the hand hygiene audit results?

- On the spot feedback at time of audit
- At huddles and multi-disciplinary meetings
- Reports are posted quarterly and annually for each site and program

How are families and visitors taught hand hygiene?

- Signage placed throughout sites (entrances, alcohol-based hand rub dispensers, hand hygiene sinks, public areas, family information boards, client care room, etc.)
- [IP&C Self- Learn for Family Members, Visitors, Volunteers and Students](#)

How are Handy Audits results used to make improvements?

- Staff education strategies
- Ongoing planning
- Improvements at the site/unit level
- Celebrate and build on successes