GOJO

HAND HYGIENE TIMES

Your resource for the latest news in effective infection control program development and best practices.

Issue 4 Volume 2

Patient Hand Hygiene

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The last decade of Infection Control has focused on healthcare personnel hand hygiene, but little attention has been given to patient hand hygiene. When a patient is admitted to the hospital, they are put in a bed and often have no access to hand hygiene products. Hand sanitizer dispensers are mounted to walls out of patient reach and many acutely ill patients are unable to walk to the sink to wash their hands. Even if the patient is educated and well intended to perform hand hygiene, it is often a safety risk for the patient to get out of bed unattended to access the hand hygiene products.

When one considers how germs travel in a healthcare setting, one must include the patient's hands as a possible vector. A patient who is admitted to the hospital with an infection could unwittingly touch the site of infection and then touch their bedrails and over bed table. The nurse comes into the room and touches the patient environment and is in contact with the patient's germs. If the patient and the nurse do not perform hand hygiene, the patient's germs are now travelling down the hall on the nurse's hands to another patient. If the patient and the patient's family had been educated about the need for hand hygiene, the cycle could have been broken. This can be accomplished only if patients have hand hygiene products within their reach.

> **"Encourage patients' active involvement in their own care as a patient safety strategy."**

In the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) patient brochure "Hand Hygiene Saves Lives – A Patient Guide", patients and their loved ones are advised that they should clean their hands "very often, especially after touching objects or surfaces in the hospital room, before eating and after using the restroom."[1]

As hospitals are encouraged to focus on patient safety and develop a culture of safety, patient hand hygiene should be a component of their patient safety program. The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal # 13 states "Encourage patients' active involvement in their own care as a patient safety strategy."[2] One of the Elements of Performance of this National Patient Safety Goal requires that the hospital provides the patient with information regarding infection control measures for hand hygiene practices, and respiratory hygiene practices, according to the patient's condition. The information should be discussed with the patient and family members on admission to the hospital or as soon as possible when their condition stabilizes. The information may be provided to the patient in any form of media, such as brochure or video. The Joint Commission explains that communication with the patient and family about all aspects of care, treatment, and services is an important characteristic of a culture of safety.

1 The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Hand Hygiene Saves Lives – A Patient's Guide retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/PDF/CDC_HandHygiene_Brochure.pdf

2 The Joint Commission Accreditation Program: Hospital National Patient Safety Goals. Retrieved from http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/NationalPatientSafetyGoals/09_hap_npsgs.htm

THAT'S a FACT!

The HAI burden is greatly increased in high-risk patients such as those admitted to ICUs. In the USA, the national infection rate in ICUs was estimated to be 13 per 1000 patient-days in 2002.[1]

1. WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care, First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care is Safer Care:pg. 6

Product Feature

EMPOWER PATIENTS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Introducing **PURELL® Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes**, patient hand hygiene solutions that provide patients with an independent way to clean, sanitize and remove light soils from their hands throughout their hospital stay.

Studies have shown that many surfaces in the patient environment can be contaminated with pathogens that could cause illness.[1] So empowering patients to take an active role in helping to prevent the spread of germs is a key way to reduce the opportunity to transfer germs.

PURELL PERSONAL PACK SANITIZING WIPES

GOJO has two new product offerings in its line of PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes.

Option 1 – PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes Resealable packages

This option is a stand alone pack of sanitizing wipes that provides patients with the sanitizing power of PURELL in the convenience of a resealable pack of wipes. These wipes can be provided to patients as part of an admission kit, patient safety initiative and are a great way for facilities to demonstrate their commitment to patient safety.

Option 2 – PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes for the Hill-Rom® Art of Care® Overbed Table or Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bed.

GOJO has partnered with Hill-Rom Services, Inc., the leading hospital furniture manufacturer in the US, to integrate patient hand hygiene solutions into two key pieces of patient furniture, the overbed table and the patient bed. Specifically, the PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes for Hill-Rom® will fit the ***new*** Hill-Rom® Art of Care® overbed table or can be used in the hand hygiene option available on the Hill-Rom VersaCare® patient bed. **For the first time ever, patient hand hygiene product options have been integrated into the two pieces of hospital furniture most used by patients during their hospital stay.**

Key benefits of both of these products:

- **Contains 62% Ethyl Alcohol, a Category I active ingredient**
- **36 wipes per pack to last the average patient stay**
- **Easy to open and reseal pack**
- **5.5 X 7 inch textured wipe**
- **Cleans, sanitizes and remove light soils from hands**
- **Reduces risk of product spills and misuse by patients**
- **Recommended for patient admission kits, bedside tables and patient safety initiatives**

PATIENT EDUCATION

The Joint Commission's Speak Up! Campaign provides patients with information on when, how and why to practice good hygiene to ensure that they and everyone around them practices good hand hygiene as well.

To help address this need and support the launch of these products, GOJO has developed a variety of patient focused educational tools that their end user facilities can download for free from their website and use to educate patients on when, how and why they should practice hand hygiene. These tools will also demonstrate a hospital's commitment to patient well-being and engages everyone in the fight against infections.

EDUCATION TOOLS

Tools designed to build patient and visitor awareness to practice good hygiene:

- Patient Hand Hygiene Educational Brochures
- Patient Meal Tray Reminder Cards
- Screen Savers, Poster and Buttons

Available in 3 Themes:

- **EMPOWERING**: *Empower patients and visitors to help prevent the spread of germs, which reduces the risk of infection and healthcare costs during their stay or visit.*
- **INVITING**: *Take an invitational approach by inviting patients and visitors to join in the fight against infection and controlling healthcare costs.*
- **15 SECONDS**: *Remind patients and visitors that it takes just 15 seconds to help reduce the spread of germs and lower healthcare costs.*

EMPOWERING

INVITING

15 SECONDS

Description	Order Number	Case Pack
Patient Hand Hygiene Solutions		
PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes 5.5 in. x 7 in. - 36 wipes	9036-24	24
PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes for the Hill-Rom Art of Care® Table 5.5 in. x 7 in. - 36 wipes	9035-24	24

Find out more about these solutions from GOJO or sign a facility up for a trial at:

Sign up for a trial at **healthcare.GOJO.com/trial**

Sign up for Patient and Visitor Education at **healthcare.GOJO.com/education**

1 Boyce, et. Al (1997) Environmental Contamination due to Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Possible Infection Control Implications. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology Vol 18 (9) p. 662-627

A Look Ahead

next month's issue

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