GOJO

HAND HYGIENE TIMES

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

Issue 1 Volume 3

The Role the Community Plays in Infection Control

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In examining hand hygiene and the role it plays in infection prevention, much attention has been given to the healthcare worker's hands. Until the H1N1 Pandemic of 2009 very little attention was paid to the healthcare facility visitor's hand hygiene. The hands of visitors can be considered a potential vector of germs both into the building to the patient's room, and out of the building into the community. Since the Pandemic has passed, unfortunately visitor hand hygiene seems to have fallen off the radar.

A study done of healthy homemaker's hands found that the flora of their hands was higher in prevalence of gram negative bacteria than health care professionals[1]. Although this bacteria could be harmless to the homemaker's hands, this same bacteria could be deadly if it found its way into a patient's central line or wound. Another pilot study of a community in Pennsylvania found that 19% of the people tested in the community were positive with MRSA[2]. Many patients' immune systems are weakened, and an exposure to MRSA could cause an infection that leads to many complications including increased length of stay, increased financial burden to the patient, and other hardships such as time away from family and work. It is the hospital and Infection Control's responsibility to protect the patient from acquiring an infection while in the hospital.

Providing hand hygiene materials for the visitor and patient is the first step.

The Joint Commission Accreditation Standards for Hospitals include elements of performance that require hospitals to provide information for visitors, patients and families on hand and respiratory hygiene practice.The Joint Commission Speak Up™ Program was created to help patients become more informed and involved in their healthcare. The program includes 5 things a patient can do to fight the spread of infection. The **first** item is "clean your hands". Patients are advised to clean their hands before touching or eating food, after using the bathroom, after taking out the trash, after changing a diaper, after playing with a pet, or after visiting someone who is ill[3]. When the visitor leaves the healthcare facility they have touched the same environmental surfaces as the patient and healthcare worker. They need an opportunity to clean their hands before exiting the building to remove the germs that their hands have been exposed to during the visit.

According to the World Health Organization, if visitors are having contact with the patient, in a way which corresponds with any of the Five Moments, hand hygiene should be performed. In some contexts, visitors provide much of the day-to-day routine care, and therefore should be encouraged to use the handrubs in accordance with the Five Moments. In i nstances where visitors are likely to have physical contact with more than one patient, then hand hygiene should be performed according to the Five Moments[4].

The **Five Moments** include:

- before touching a patient,
- before clean/aseptic procedures,
- after body fluid exposure/risk,
- after touching a patient, and
- after touching patient surroundings[5]

Good hand hygiene practices lead to reduced risk of infection for both the visitor and the patient. Even if a visitor leaves home with clean hands, consider all the objects that they touch before they reach the patient. They will touch keys, car handles, door handles, and elevator buttons before they reach the patient environment. In order to prevent the spread of germs from the visitor to the patient, and patient to visitor, the healthcare facility needs to promote hand hygiene with products and signage that invites and encourages everyone to participate.

1 Larson, E. L. et al. (2002). Microbial flora of hands of homemakers. American Journal of Infection Control. (31) 72-9.
2 Rahimian, S. (2009). A pilot study for a community-level infection control program. American Journal of Infection Control (37) E66-67.
3 The Joint Commission. Speak UpTM Five Things You Can Do To Prevent Infection. Retrieved from: http://www.jointcommission.org/speakup.aspx
4 The World Health Organization. Patient Involvement and Empowerment. Retrieved from: http://www.who.int/gpsc/tools/faqs/patient_involvement/en/index.html
5 The World Health Organization. About SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands. Retrieved from: http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/background/5moments/en/index.html

THAT'S a FACT!

Although 96% of adults reported washing their hands after using public restrooms, one study observed that a mean of 21% did not wash their hands.[1]

1. American Microbiology Society, American Cleaning Institute "A survey of handwashing behavior (trended)" ICAAC 2010. Retreived from: http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ICAAC/22181

Product Feature

COMMUNITY & VISITORS HAND HYGIENE SOLUTIONS FROM GOJO

Now more than ever, healthcare workers, patients and visitors need to follow proper hand hygiene practices and be educated in order to help stop the spread of germs that may cause infections. It is readily apparent that practicing good hand hygiene is paramount to reducing the risk of infection.

To prevent the transmission of respiratory infections in a healthcare setting, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that healthcare facilities provide products, materials and visual alerts within the facility. To comply with this recommendation GOJO has designed a number of solutions including The Visitor Wellness Center by PURELL® that can be leveraged by healthcare facilities to educatepeople on why, when and how to practice good hand hygiene.

The PURELL Visitor Wellness Center

is a community outreach solution specifically designed for visitors that demonstrates the hospital's commitment to community well-being and the fight against infections.

The center consists of:

1) awareness-building signage to educate about the importance of covering a cough or sneeze and hand hygiene
2) special delivery system that provides a touch free dispenser with PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer
3) portable, floor stand with brackets for masks and tissues

This hand hygiene center is recommended in high traffic areas such as admission areas, lobbies and bathrooms.

The PURELL Sanitizing Wipes Station

helps a healthcare facility create a positive and lasting impression with visitors, patients and employees by providing the power of PURELL in the convenience of a wipe. PURELL wipes not only sanitize hands, but offers users the benefit of also removing light soil and dirt. The PURELL Wipes Stations can be placed in a variety of locations including entrances, cafeterias and waiting areas for hand hygiene access by everyone.

Implementing these hand hygiene solutions not only addresses the hand hygiene needs of visitors and the community, they also make the healthcare facilities commitment to hand hygiene and infection control visible to everyone who enters the building.

Description	Order Number	Case Pack
PURELL VISITOR WELLNESS CENTER*		
Stand		
PURELL® TFX™ Floor Stand	2424-DS	1
Brackets		
Mask Bracket	2428-MB	1
Tissue Bracket	2429-TB	1
Dispenser		
PURELL® TFX™ Touch Free Dispenser	2720-12	12
Refills		
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer Skin Nourishing Foam	5398-02	2
PURELL® Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer Foam	5391-02	2
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer Foam	5392-02	2
PURELL® Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer	5491-04	4
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer with DERMAGLYCERIN SYSTEM™	5451-04	4
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer with Aloe	5457-04	4
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer	5456-04	4
Signage		
Graphic Sign	HCE-LIT-VWCS1	1
Instructional Sign	HCE-LIT-VWCS2	1
Visitor Care	LIT-HCE-VCS	1
PURELL SANITIZING WIPES STATION*		
Stand		
PURELL Sanitizing Wipes Station	9010-DS	1
Refill		
PURELL Alcohol Sanitizing Wipes	9031-06	6
Signage		
OUR HIGH STANDARDS START HERE™ Sign (24" x 18")	9010-01-PUR2	1

*All parts sold separately.

A Look Ahead

next month's issue

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