GOJO

HAND HYGIENE TIMES

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

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The Importance of Patient Hand Hygiene

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When patients are admitted to the hospital they are often too ill to worry about their hand hygiene. They may forget about it because materials for hand hygiene are not in their line of sight. Most people are accustomed to cleaning their hands after using the toilet and before eating. To lose the ability to perform hand hygiene can be disturbing to a patient and family.

One hospital promoted patient and visitor hand hygiene by providing alcohol based hand sanitizer to patients and their families upon admission to the hospital in conjunction with an informational brochure explaining the importance of hand hygiene. The staff provided a brief demonstration of the proper application of the products with emphasis on the importance of hand hygiene. A survey was given to the patient and families upon discharge from the hospital. Respondents agreed that providing alcohol based hand sanitizer was acceptable and useful. The respondents also agreed that providing the product increased their awareness and made them observe the hand hygiene practices of clinicians. Ninety per cent of the respondents felt that the healthcare facility valued hand hygiene practices.[1]

Programs like this are achievable in any healthcare facility. Educating the patient and family is as important as providing the materials for the patient to perform hand hygiene. It is important to review how and when to clean hands. For hand washing instruction, this simple procedure is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention[2]:

- **Wet hands** with tepid water and apply soap
- **Work the soap** into a rich lather
- Remember to **work the lather onto the backs of hands and between fingers**. It's also important to work soap onto the fingertips and under your nails.
- **Wash for at least 15 seconds** before rinsing
- **Rinse hands well** under clean running water at a comfortable temperature
- After the soap is completely rinsed off, **gently pat hands dry** with a clean, dry paper towel.
- Finally, **turn off the water using a clean paper towel** so that hands are not re-contaminated with germs on the faucet.

Instructions for applying hand sanitizer:

- Use **enough sanitizer to thoroughly cover** hands
- **Place palms together and rub** in sanitizer
- **Clean fingertips** in palms of hands
- **Rub sanitizer** into backs of hands and spaces between fingers
- **Rub into thumbs and then wrists** and then all over from fingertips to wrists
- This process should take at least **15-20 seconds** until sanitizer is dry

The Joint Commission "Speak Up" publication for patients advises patients to clean their hands before touching or eating food, after using the bathroom which could be a bedpan or bedside commode.[3] Many times patients are not able to get out of bed to wash hands at the sink, and for these times sanitizing hands with alcohol based hand sanitizer or towelettes impregnated with alcohol based hand sanitizer is appropriate. Upon admission to the hospital, patients and family should take a moment and look around their hospital room. They should be encouraged to make sure that materials are within reach to clean their hands. They should not be afraid to ask for the materials or assistance to clean your hands. A patient should maintain the same good hygiene habits that they have at home.

Involving patients and families in hand hygiene may be beneficial in supporting hand hygiene practices in healthcare settings. The entire healthcare team, including patients and families can work together to increase hand hygiene compliance and decrease healthcare associated infections.

1 Qutaishat, S.S., Giese, H., & Nienowk. (2005). Promoting alcohol based hand sanitizer to patients and their families on a pediatric unit: Partnerships to enhance compliance with hand hygiene. American Journal of Infection Control 33(5) e82.

2 Boyce, J. & Pittet, D.. Guidelines for hand hygiene in health care settings. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 2002; 51(RR16) 1-45.

3 The Joint Commission Speak UpTM Program. Retrieved from: http://www.jointcommission.org/NR/rdonlyres/F76BC658-5554-4A82-89ED-67E36F033CF8/0/Infection_Control_Brochure.pdf

THAT'S a FACT!

November 2010 study by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General found that one in seven Medicare patients or 13.5 percent experienced serious or long term medical harm (including infections) or death while they underwent treatment in the hospital. Another 13 percent of patients experienced temporary harm. The researchers estimated that hospital infections and medical errors involving Medicare patients contributed to approximately 180,000 deaths and $4.4 billion in additional hospital care costs each year.[1]

1. http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2011/04/hhs-announces-national-campaign-to-improve-patient-safety.aspx

Product Feature

PATIENT HAND HYGIENE SOLUTIONS

Patients feel reassured when healthcare facilities promote hand hygiene. GOJO has solutions that encourage hand hygiene for patients and engage them in the efforts to help prevent the spread of germs that may cause illness. Studies have shown that many surfaces in the patient environment can be contaminated with pathogens,[1] so empowering patients to take an active role in preventing the spread of germs is a key way to reduce the opportunity to transfer germs.

GOJO has a variety of instant hand sanitizer solutions that can be used anytime when soap and water are not accessible. These solutions are formulated with ethyl alcohol and kill 99.99% of most common germs that may cause illness. Recommended as part of an admission kit, patient safety initiative, bed side table and meal tray program, PURELL® Patient Hand Hygiene Solutions are a great way for facilities to demonstrate their commitment to patient safety.

PURELL® Patient Hand Hygiene Solutions

PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes and PURELL Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes For the Hill-Rom® Art of Care Overbed® Table and Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bedrail Accessory

- Easily accessible means for patients to clean and sanitize their hands without leaving the bed
- 36 wipes per pack to last an average patient stay
- Easy to open and reseal
- 5.5 x 7 inch textured wipes
- Cleans, sanitizes and remove light soil from hands
- Dye-free, fragrance-free formulation

For the Hill-Rom® Art of Care Overbed® Table and Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bedrail Accessory

- Easily snaps into the Hill-Rom® Art of Care Overbed® Table and Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bedrail Accessory

PURELL Sanitizing Hand Wipes

- Individually wrapped – leave with meal tray or at bedside
- Ideal for a patient meal tray program to encourage patients to clean and sanitize their hands before and after they eat
- Easily disposable

PURELL Cottony Soft Sanitizing Wipes

- Thick, textured individually wrapped wipes for better cleaning
- Formulated with moisturizers, vitamins A & E and aloe to help maintain healthy skin
- Creates a positive and lasting impression with patients

PURELL Instant Hand Sanitizers

- Convenient sizes for admission kits and bedside tables
- Gentle formula that people will want to use
- Proven broad spectrum efficacy
- Builds awareness with patients and visitors

Empower patients in the fight against germs that may cause illness while building a reputation for quality care. Getting patients and visitors to perform good hand hygiene as a routine practice is essential to help reduce healthcare associated infections. To advance the importance of hand hygiene with patients GOJO has a variety of patient focused educational tools that healthcare facilities can access for free at healthcare.gojo.com. These tools help educate patients on why, when and how to practice good hand hygiene.

Description	Order Number	Case Pack	Hill-Rom® Part Number
PURELL® Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes For Hill-Rom® Art of Care® Overbed Table and Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bedrail Accessory and PURELL® Personal Pack Sanitizing Wipes			
36 count, compact, resealable package	9036-24	24	OBT636, OBT635
Fitment for Hill-Rom® Art of Care® Overbed Table and Hill-Rom® VersaCare® Bedrail Accessory	9035-24	24	P3204A01

Description	Order Number	Case Pack	Use With
PURELL® Sanitizing Hand Wipes			
100 ct. Carton	9022-10	100	
1000 ct. Packed Shipper	9021-1M	1000	9023-06
4000 ct. Packed Shipper	9020-4M	4000	9023-06

Description	Order Number	Case Pack
PURELL® Cottony Soft Sanitizing Wipes		
1000 ct. Packed Shipper	9026-1M	
120 ct. Self-Dispensing Display Box	9027-12	
40 ct. Self-Dispensing Display Box	9025-12	
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer Skin Nourishing Formulas		
1.5 fl oz Foam Pump Bottle	5698-24	24
2 fl oz Gel Pump Bottle	9648-24	24
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer Formulations		
45mL Foam Pump Bottle	5692-24	24
2 fl oz Gel Pump Bottle	9606-24	24

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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