

HAND WASHING



These competencies are protected by United States Copyright © 1999 - 2005 and the clinical database system is Patent Pending to UTMB (University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston)

EQUIPMENT AND PREPARATION

1. Identifies and gathers the necessary equipment (e.g. hospital approved alcohol based rub or appropriate sink, soap dispenser, scrub packet)(ref. 1)
2. Removes jewelry (e.g. rings, bracelets, watch)

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCEDURE

1. Determines appropriate procedure (alcohol based hand rub or antimicrobial soap and water); antimicrobial soap and water hand wash is indicated when hands are visibly soiled or as indicated by your hospital infectious control guidelines (e.g. prior to entering special care units such as NICU, transplant units, before performing invasive procedures), otherwise alcohol based rubs are acceptable (ref. 1)

Alcohol Based Hand Rubs

1. Applies an adequate amount of hospital approved alcohol based hand cleaner (approximately 3 ml or an amount that will take longer than 15 seconds for the hands to become dry) (ref. 1)
2. Rubs hands together; ensuring that the alcohol based rub comes in contact with all parts of the hand and digits
3. Confirms hand rubbing action lasted longer than 15 seconds to ensure adequate antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial Soap and Water Hand Wash

4. Turns on water to the desired temperature and sets the flow to avoid splashing during hand washing.
5. Wets hands and applies an adequate amount of soap (do not use patient's bar soap)
6. Performs a vigorous rub all over the palms and fingers for at least 15 seconds. (ref. 1)
7. Rinses from fingers to forearms, without touching the sink.
8. Aseptically removes towels to dry hands.
9. Disposes of towels properly.
10. Removes additional towels to turn off water.
11. Disposes of additional towels properly.

FOLLOW-UP

1. Repeats hand washing procedure following patient contact

DEMONSTRATES KNOWLEDGE OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

1. Identifies the number one cause of infection transmission among patients.
2. Identifies additional types of hand washing and when they would be utilized (ref 2)
3. Identifies potential complications associated with using water that is too hot or splashing at the sink.

4. Describe several patient conditions that would increase a patient's risk for acquiring a transmitted infection.

CLINICAL COMPETENCY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Displays rational judgment and is able to explain the relationship between theory and clinical practice.
2. Performs procedure in a reasonable time frame and with attention to appropriate detail
3. Maintains aseptic technique and takes appropriate safety precautions
4. Communicates clearly, and in a courteous manner

Additional Comments: include errors of oversight or sequence, strengths and weaknesses during procedure (i.e. knowledge, communication skills, and patient interaction skills)

Summary performance evaluation

Please use the following criteria and select the appropriate pop-up menu.

Satisfactory - ready for clinical application with minimal supervision. Performed procedure accurately, or was able to correct performance without injury to the patient or decreasing effect of therapy being given.

Unsatisfactory performance – not ready for clinical application. Requires remediation under one of the following categories

Minor - Unsatisfactory: needs to review fundamental concepts or requires re-evaluation of minor deficiency(s) (ex. forgets to wash hands during the Follow-up stage. Must be re-evaluated on this step not the whole procedure).

Major - Unsatisfactory: requires additional supervised clinical practice and complete re-evaluation of the procedure.

REQUIRED: Summary Performance Evaluation

References:

- 1) CDC, Guideline for Hand Washing and Hospital Environmental Control, 1985, updated 11/2002)
- 2) Thomas Barnes: Core Textbook of Respiratory Care Practice; Second Edition; Appendix C – Infection Control. Mosby-Year Book 1994, p 705-707

Summative Performance Evaluation:

Satisfactory _____
Minor Unsatisfactory _____
Major Unsatisfactory _____

Name of person being evaluated

Signature of Direct Supervisor

Date