

Hand Hygiene

This domain performs a comprehensive assessment of the Hand Hygiene Program at your facility as it currently functions.

Leadership Support

1 - Do facility leadership and the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program have established goals related to hand hygiene improvement efforts?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Policy & Procedure

2a - Does the facility have **policies** and standard operating procedures related to hand hygiene?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

2b - What is **included** in the hand hygiene policies?

- Artificial fingernails (gel, shellac, dip, chipped nail polish, etc.)
- Preferential use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) in most clinical situations
- Clinical scenarios requiring soap and water use over ABHR
- Hand hygiene opportunities - **Preferred**
- Required locations for hand hygiene stations
- Facility-approved hand hygiene products
- Glove use and hand hygiene
- Jewelry (limiting wearing of rings, bracelets, watches, etc.)
- None of the above
- Other

Education & Training

3a - Does the facility have a competency-based training program for hand hygiene?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3b - What is included in the hand hygiene education and training?

- Hand hygiene rationale
- Indications for hand hygiene
- Hand hygiene techniques
- Methods to maintain skin health
- Facility hand hygiene goals
- Importance of hand hygiene adherence
- Indications for glove use
- Limitations of glove use

- None
- Other

3c - Who receives hand hygiene training and education?

- Clinical healthcare personnel
- Ancillary Personnel
- Non-clinical healthcare personnel
- Clinical Support
- Students & Trainees
- Volunteers - ***Preferred***
- Contractors
- None
- Other

3d - What frequency are hand hygiene training and education provided?

- Upon hire
- Annually
- When new products and protocols are introduced
- As remediation for compliance failures
- Targeted performance improvement
- None

3e - Are healthcare personnel required to demonstrate competency following each training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3f - Does the facility maintain documentation of hand hygiene competency training completion?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Audit & Feedback

4a - Does the facility audit hand hygiene adherence?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4b - How are hand hygiene audits performed?

- Secret shopper observation
- Overt observation (direct observation and intervention)
- Video monitoring later reviewed by trained observers
- Electronic hand hygiene monitoring systems
- Dispenser-associated systems
- Real-time locating services
- Patient observers
- Product Usage
- Other

None of the above

4c - What do the hand hygiene audits monitor?

- In and out of room activity
- 5 moments of hand hygiene
- Length of time hand hygiene is performed
- Method of hand hygiene
- Adherence to CDC/WHO hand hygiene sequence
- None
- Other

4d - Does the IPC program have a target number of observations as a hand hygiene goal?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4e - Do those who perform hand hygiene audits undergo training prior to performing observations?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4f - Hand hygiene data collected by IPC personnel is consistent with hand hygiene data collected by unit staff and other observers.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4g - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4h - Does the facility utilize hand hygiene data to impact performance improvement?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

General Practice

5 - Do healthcare personnel perform hand hygiene with soap and water when hands are visibly soiled?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6 - Do healthcare personnel perform hand hygiene using soap and water when clinically indicated? Such as when caring for patients with known or suspected *Clostridioides difficile*, *Bacillus anthracis*, and/or norovirus during an outbreak?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Environment of Care

7 - Does the IPC program review the facility environment for sufficient hand hygiene stations?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8 - Are soap, water, and sinks readily accessible in patient care areas?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9 - Are ABHR dispensers readily accessible throughout the facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

10 - Does the facility have posted signage promoting the hand hygiene sequence and steps in all areas where hand hygiene occurs?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

11 - Are hand hygiene stations available and visible for patient and visitor use throughout the facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

12 - Is hand hygiene signage visible for patients and visitors throughout the facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

13 - Is the IPC program involved in hand hygiene product selection?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Answer Key

Leadership Support

1 - Do facility leadership and the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program have established goals related to hand hygiene improvement efforts?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Policy & Procedure

2a - Does the facility have **policies** and standard operating procedures related to hand hygiene?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

2b - What is **included** in the hand hygiene policies? (**Select all preferred options**)

Artificial fingernails (gel, shellac, dip, chipped nail polish, etc.) - **Preferred**

Preferential use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) in most clinical situations - **Preferred**

Clinical scenarios requiring soap and water use over ABHR - **Preferred**

Hand hygiene opportunities - **Preferred**

Required locations for hand hygiene stations - **Preferred**

Facility-approved hand hygiene products - **Preferred**

Glove use and hand hygiene - **Preferred**

Jewelry (limiting wearing of rings, bracelets, watches, etc.) - **Preferred**

None of the above

Other

Education & Training

3a - Does the facility have a competency-based training program for hand hygiene?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

3b - What is included in the hand hygiene education and training? (**Select all preferred options**)

Hand hygiene rationale - **Preferred**

Indications for hand hygiene - **Preferred**

Hand hygiene techniques - **Preferred**

Methods to maintain skin health - **Preferred**

Facility hand hygiene goals - **Preferred**

Importance of hand hygiene adherence - **Preferred**

Indications for glove use - **Preferred**

Limitations of glove use - **Preferred**

None

Other

3c - Who receives hand hygiene training and education?

- Clinical healthcare personnel - **Preferred**
- Ancillary Personnel - **Preferred**
- Non-clinical healthcare personnel - **Preferred**
- Clinical Support - **Preferred**
- Students & Trainees - **Preferred**
- Volunteers - **Preferred**
- Contractors - **Preferred**
- None
- Other

3d - What frequency are hand hygiene training and education provided? (**Select all preferred options**)

- Upon hire - **Preferred**
- Annually - **Preferred**
- When new products and protocols are introduced - **Preferred**
- As remediation for compliance failures - **Preferred**
- Targeted performance improvement - **Preferred**
- None

3e - Are healthcare personnel required to demonstrate competency following each training?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

3f - Does the facility maintain documentation of hand hygiene competency training completion?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

Audit & Feedback

4a - Does the facility audit hand hygiene adherence?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

4b - How are hand hygiene audits performed? (**Select all preferred options**)

- Secret shopper observation - **Preferred Optional**
- Overt observation (direct observation and intervention) - **Preferred**
- Video monitoring later reviewed by trained observers - **Preferred Optional**
- Electronic hand hygiene monitoring systems - **Preferred Optional**
- Dispenser-associated systems - **Preferred Optional**
- Real-time locating services - **Preferred Optional**
- Patient observers - **Preferred Optional**
- Product Usage - **Preferred Optional**
- Other
- None of the above

4c - What do the hand hygiene audits monitor?

- In and out of room activity - **Preferred Optional**
- 5 moments of hand hygiene - **Preferred**
- Length of time hand hygiene is performed - **Preferred Optional**
- Method of hand hygiene - **Preferred Optional**
- Adherence to CDC/WHO hand hygiene sequence - **Preferred**
- None
- Other

4d - Does the IPC program have a target number of observations as a hand hygiene goal?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

4e - Do those who perform hand hygiene audits undergo training prior to performing observations?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

4f - Hand hygiene data collected by IPC personnel is consistent with hand hygiene data collected by unit staff and other observers. **(Select one of the preferred options)**

- Strongly Agree - **Preferred**
- Agree - **Preferred**
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4g - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

4h - Does the facility utilize hand hygiene data to impact performance improvement?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

General Practice

5 - Do healthcare personnel perform hand hygiene with soap and water when hands are visibly soiled?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

6 - Do healthcare personnel perform hand hygiene using soap and water when clinically indicated? Such as when caring for patients with known or suspected *Clostridioides difficile*, *Bacillus anthracis*, and/or norovirus during an outbreak?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No

Unsure

Environment of Care

7 - Does the IPC program review the facility environment for sufficient hand hygiene stations?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

8 - Are soap, water, and sinks readily accessible in patient care areas?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

9 - Are ABHR dispensers readily accessible throughout the facility?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

10 - Does the facility have posted signage promoting the hand hygiene sequence and steps in all areas where hand hygiene occurs?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

11 - Are hand hygiene stations available and visible for patient and visitor use throughout the facility?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

12 - Is hand hygiene signage visible for patients and visitors throughout the facility?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

13 - Is the IPC program involved in hand hygiene product selection?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Guidance

Leadership Support

Core Element Description: Assessment of leadership accountability, engagement, and support of the hand hygiene program.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

Policy & Procedure

Core Element Description: Assessment of hand hygiene practices within the facility.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

World Health Organization. 2009. WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241597906>

Education & Training

Core Element Description: Assessment of education and training of healthcare personnel to appropriately perform hand hygiene as it relates to their job role.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51.

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Free Access: Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 3). CDC/STRIVE Infection Control Training. [https://www.cdc.gov/infection-](https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/training/strive.html)

[control/hcp/training/strive.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/strive.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/training/strive.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/strive.html)

Audit & Feedback

Core Element Description: Assessment of audit and feedback practices regarding hand hygiene practices.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care

Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51.

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Free Access: Resources

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. (2015). Guide to hand hygiene programs for infection prevention. <https://apic.org/toolkits-guides-and-briefs/#implementaion-guide-7467>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 3). CDC/STRIVE Infection Control Training. https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/training/strive.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/strive.html

General Practice

Core Element Description: Assessment of general hand hygiene practice at the facility.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr51116.pdf>

Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. (2024, April 12). CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html>

Environment of Care

Core Element Description: Assessment of the environment of care to support hand hygiene throughout the facility.

Free Access: Regulatory

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.) Hospital infection control worksheet <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/surveycertificationgeninfo/downloads/survey-and-cert-letter-15-12-attachment-1.pdf>

Additional Guidance

Free Access: Regulatory

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2015). Advanced Copy - Update to Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Infection Control Surveyor Worksheet (ICSW). <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-43.pdf>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2025). Spotlight. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-safety-standards/quality-safety-oversight-general-information/spotlight>

LabCE. (n.d.) CE and Exam Preparation for Medical Laboratory Professionals. <https://www.labce.com/#::~:~:text=Thoroughly%20wash%20all%20parts%20of,dry%20thoroughly>

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Free Access: Guidelines

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<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/2623725>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2021, December 21). Hand Hygiene Initiative Overview. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hand-hygiene-initiative-overview.pdf>

Ellingson, K., Haas, J.P., Aiello, A.E., Kusek, L., Maragakis, L.L., Olmsted, R.L., Perencevich, E., Polgreen, P.M., Schweizer, M.L., Trexler, P., VanAmringe, M., Yokoe, D.S., & Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). (2014). Strategies to prevent healthcare-associated infections through hand hygiene. *Infection Control Hospital Epidemiology*, 35(8), 937-960. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/955E4AAEB5DDEAC61281B9ECB5D68E4F/S0899823X00193900a.pdf/strategies-to-prevent-healthcare-associated-infections-through-hand-hygiene.pdf>

World Health Organization. (2009). WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241597906>

Free Access: Standards

Association of Surgical Technologists. (2008). AST standards of practice for surgical attire, surgical scrub, hand hygiene and hand washing.

https://www.ast.org/uploadedfiles/main_site/content/about_us/standard_surgical_attire_surgical_scrub.pdf

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Association of perioperative Registered Nurses. (2021). Hand hygiene. Guidelines and Clinical Resources. Denver, CO: AORN, Inc. <https://aornguidelines.org/faq/content?topic=43751>

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World Health Organization. (2009). How to hand wash. [https://www.cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-\(ihs\)/infection-prevention-and-control/how-to-handwash-poster.pdf?sfvrsn=8ab212f0_5](https://www.cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-(ihs)/infection-prevention-and-control/how-to-handwash-poster.pdf?sfvrsn=8ab212f0_5)

World Health Organization. (2010). Hand hygiene self-assessment framework 2010: Introduction and user instructions. [https://www.cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-\(ihs\)/hand-hygiene/monitoring/hhsa-framework-october-2010.pdf?sfvrsn=41ba0450_6](https://www.cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-(ihs)/hand-hygiene/monitoring/hhsa-framework-october-2010.pdf?sfvrsn=41ba0450_6)

World Health Organization. (2025, April 23). Alcohol-based hand rub risks/hazards. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/alcohol-based-handrub-risks-hazards>

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[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-\(ihs\)/infection-prevention-and-control/hand-hygiene/tools/glove-use-information-leaflet.pdf?sfvrsn=13670aa_10&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/integrated-health-services-(ihs)/infection-prevention-and-control/hand-hygiene/tools/glove-use-information-leaflet.pdf?sfvrsn=13670aa_10&download=true&glove-use-information-leaflet.pdf?sfvrsn=13670aa_10&download=true)

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Purchase Required: Guidelines

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. (2026). Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. Denver, CO: AORN, Inc. <https://www.aorn.org/guidelines-resources/guidelines-for-perioperative-practice>

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