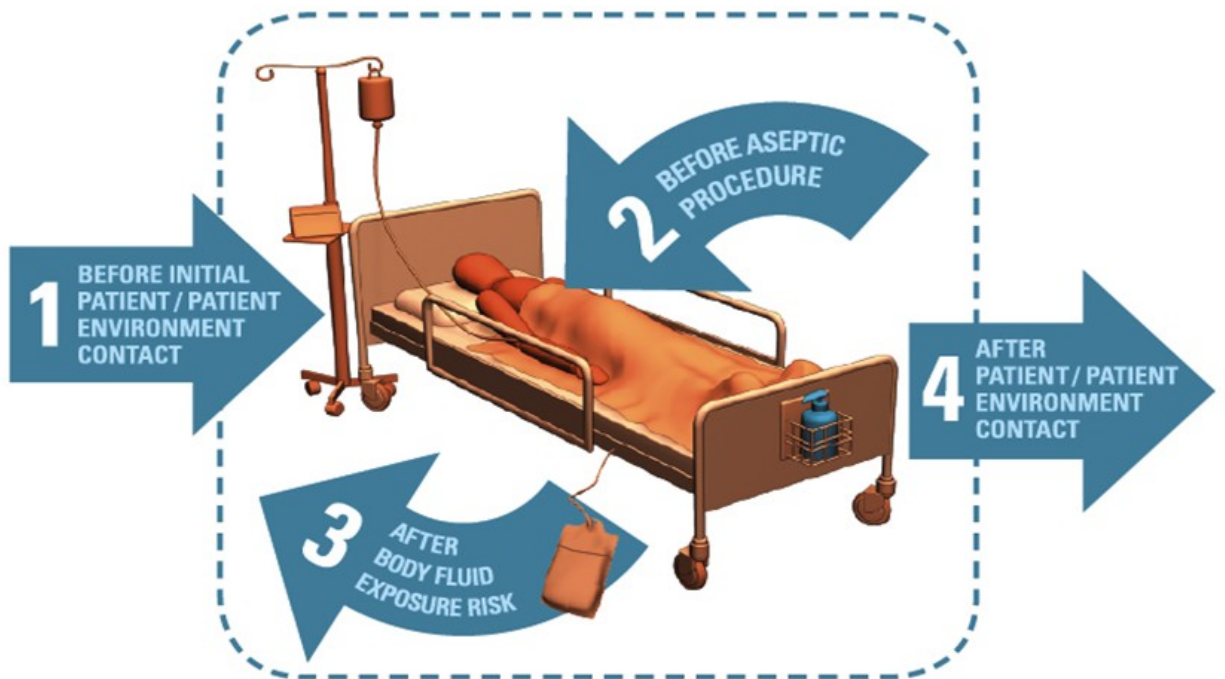


Hand Hygiene

DECISION PROCESS

The decision to decontaminate hands should be based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment that microorganisms may have been acquired on the hands and transiently carried to another person or location.

4 MOMENTS FOR HAND HYGIENE



Hand Hygiene (continued)

WHEN SHOULD HAND HYGIENE OCCUR

- At the beginning of every shift
- Before contact with any patient
- In between contact with each and every patient
- After contact with a patient on Additional Precautions or one who is colonized with microorganisms of special clinical significance, e.g. resistant to a number of antibiotics
- Before performing mouth care
- Before and after contact with susceptible sites, e.g. wounds, burns, IV sites
- Before performing invasive procedures, e.g. where natural defenses against infection are breached
- After hands have been contaminated, e.g. contact with body fluids, soiled linen, equipment or garbage
- After gloves have been removed
- Before handling food or medicines
- Before handling clean linen
- After using the toilet or after toileting others
- Before and after eating
- Prior to entering and leaving a nursing station
- Prior to using computers and other electronic devices

The Infection Prevention and Control Team may request additional requirements for hand hygiene, for example during an outbreak of infection.

WHEN SHOULD HAND HYGIENE OCCUR—HCC

There may be other times when a healthcare worker may need to decontaminate their hands:

- Before entering a client's home
- Handling items used by clients i.e. clean supplies (adult briefs etc.), medical equipment
- Entering the clinician bag
- After handling pets or medical equipment