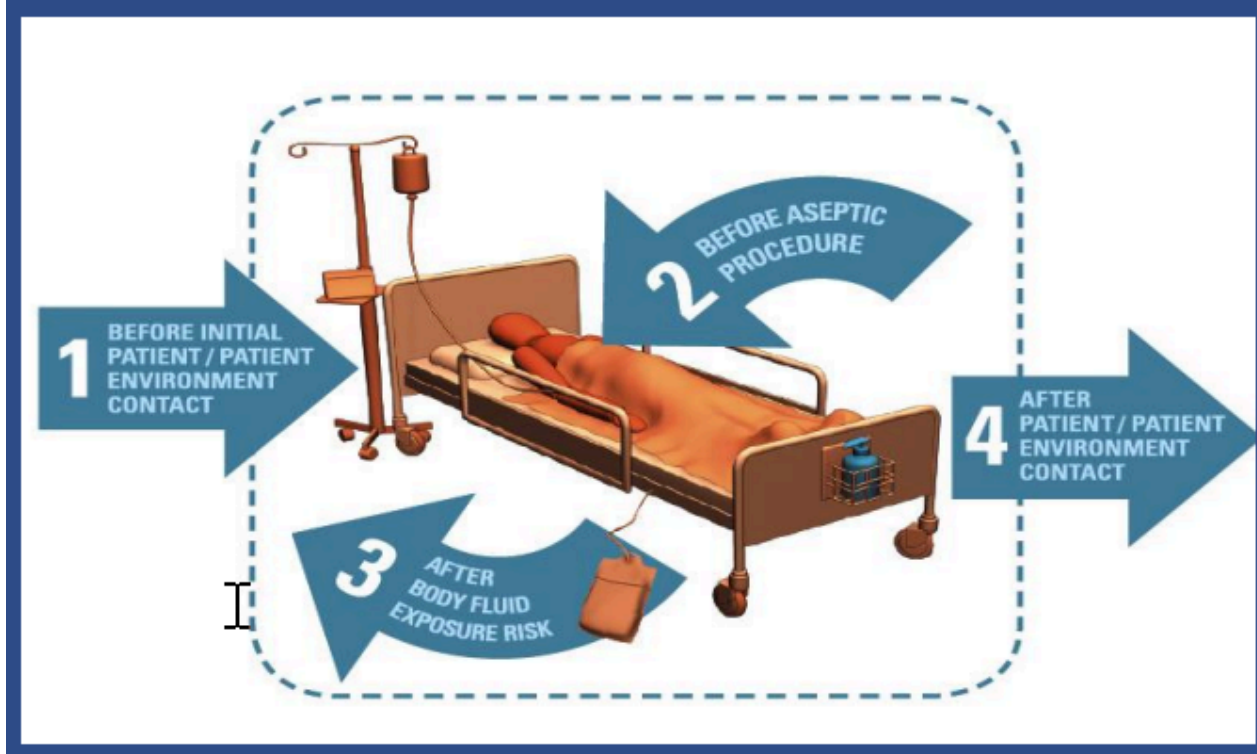


Hand Hygiene Safety Huddle



What are the Four Moments for Hand Hygiene?



Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) is the preferred method for decontaminating hands. In fact, ABHR is more effective than washing hands for routine hand sanitization. However, hands should be washed with soap and water when they are visibly soiled. ABHR can also be used with *Clostridioides difficile* and Norovirus, except when there is an active outbreak. Finally, ABHR should be available within 1m of patient care.

Why is Hand Hygiene Important

Hand Hygiene is the most effective preventative measure of the spread of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). 8,000-12,000 Canadians per year die from HAIs, and hand hygiene improvements could potentially reduce these rates by 30-50%.

How to use Hand Hygiene Audits to improve care

Hand hygiene audits observe and collect data on the four moments for hand hygiene. In areas where direct observation is not possible, indirect compliance measures are applied. Compliance reports are available on IH websites as well as posted throughout the facilities. These reports help to ensure quality hand hygiene and identify areas for quality improvement initiatives with a focus on hand hygiene education and resource availability. Compliance reports are also shared with PICnet and BC Ministry of Health.



Considerations with Gloves

Wearing gloves in healthcare settings can reduce the transmission of pathogens but does not replace the need for hand hygiene. Gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination, as their barrier integrity varies based on type, quality, usage intensity, duration, and manufacturer. Petroleum-based hand lotions or creams can adversely affect gloves, thus it is important to only utilize IH approved hand lotions. Gloves can develop leaks, tears, or punctures, so hands should be cleaned before donning gloves and after removal. Gloves should be discarded immediately after use, never washed, reused, or worn between patients.

Group Discussion



What are the four moments for hand hygiene?

How is hand hygiene compliance measured at your site?

How are compliance rates shared and used?

What is the maximum distance ABHR should be available in relation to the patient?

Where can you find further information and education on hand hygiene policies and guidelines?



Interior Health

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