


Why do healthcare workers only wash their hands 40% of the time when we know...



"...hand washing is the single most important task healthcare workers can do to protect their patients from infection?"



**Old Habits Are Hard to Break
but - WE MUST!!!**

Annually:


- 2 million people get a hospital-acquired infection
- Over 100,000 people die
- U.S. cost estimate \$4.5 to \$5.7 billion

WE CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE THIS!



Through a focused, multifaceted approach...

St. Joseph Medical Center has more than doubled our hand hygiene compliance from 38% to > 90% (since April 2005)



Key Factors

Gain Senior Leadership Support

- Leadership needs to understand the link between hand hygiene and infection.
 - Impacts patient safety
 - Patient satisfaction
 - Increased length of stay
 - Higher costs associated with an infection


Set A Goal

- >90 % hand hygiene by January 1, 2006




Develop A Team Approach!

- Hand Hygiene Program initiated by:
 - Infection Control
 - Patient Safety Committee
- Team Leaders
 - Assistant VP of Nursing
 - Infection Control
- Team Members
 - Nurse Manager from each unit
 - Leaders from all ancillary departments
 - All managers nominated a "Hand Hygiene Champion"



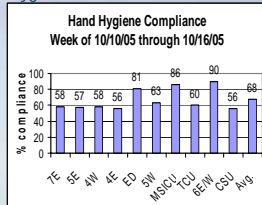
Establish Hand Hygiene Criteria (CDC guidelines)


<p>Hand Hygiene with either waterless hand disinfectant or soap and water required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When entering the patient's room ■ When leaving the patient's room ■ After caring for one patient in a room then moving to care for the other patient in the room ■ Hand hygiene is required before and after touching the patient if the patient is not in a room, for example in a stretcher or wheelchair in Radiology. ■ After removing gloves ■ After handling dirty equipment, used linens or specimens 	<p>Soap and water required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Before eating ■ After using the rest room ■ Any time hands are visibly soiled ■ After caring for a patient on contact precautions for <i>C. difficile</i> ■ When you feel a significant build up of the waterless hand product on your hands (though there is no specified number of times you can use the waterless hand disinfectant before you have to wash your hands)
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Hand Hygiene Program


- Observations
 - Weekly – Hand Hygiene Champions from one unit were assigned to observe another unit
- Weekly hand hygiene meetings
 - Champions required to bring hand hygiene observation data
 - Discuss successes
 - Discuss barriers
 - Hand Hygiene Champions divide up and huddle with all units-promoting hand hygiene and sharing compliance data
 - Occasionally give out small gifts, i.e. wrapped candy, etc.





Hand Hygiene Program

- Make it everyone's responsibility to remind each other about hand hygiene.
- Develop script to help staff approach others about hand hygiene.
- Daily 5 minute Unit huddles on each shift, every day, lead by nursing leadership.
- Do staff in-services on importance of hand hygiene, develop a quiz and give out prizes



Ensure staff have the supplies they need!

To conquer any barriers they may have.

- Are sinks, soap and paper towels readily available?
- Assess location of waterless hand disinfectant, i.e. outside/inside patient's room?
- Do staff like the hand sanitizer, especially after frequent use?
- Provide "good" CHG compatible lotion
- Are computer keyboards, mice, and phones cleaned?
- Do immobile patients have access to hand hygiene?
- Is staff properly educated on when to use hand hygiene?
- Are visitors properly educated on when to use hand hygiene?

Artificial Nails (banned)

- Artificial nails have been associated with the spread of infections in hospitals.
 - In accordance with the Center for Disease Control Guideline for Hand Hygiene, artificial nails are banned for all patient care staff.
 - Artificial nails are also banned in personnel who handle sterile equipment after it is opened or unwrapped.

Bacteria + Artificial nails = Spread of Infections

Place Hand Hygiene Signs at Unit Entrances

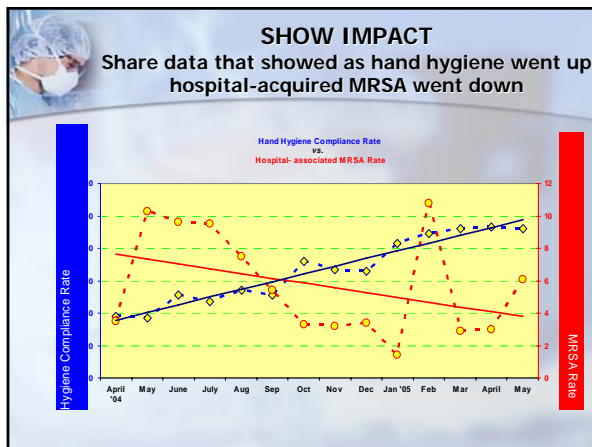
Culture Staff Hands for Educational Purposes

A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Hand culture before

After using waterless hand disinfectant

Implement JCAHO Speak Up Program to Involve Patients and Families



How's Your Technique?

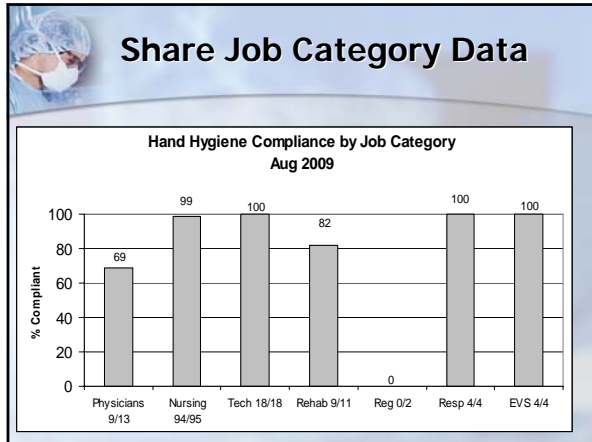
Hand cultures before and after Hand Hygiene

Poor. Look how many germs were missed.

Better, but missed the thumb.

Perfect!!

Whether using soap and water or hand sanitizer you need to use good technique. Get all surfaces - finger tips, between fingers, palms and back of hands.



"Doctors are gentlemen, and gentlemen's hands are clean"

Charles Meigs, MD
(US obstetrician, 1840's)

WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND ARE SUSTAINING GREATER THAN 90% HAND HYGIENE COMPLIANCE!!

