

Handwashing in the ED

A comprehensive manual

July 2008



Here is the Policy

Handwashing is required:

Upon entering and leaving patient rooms

Between patient contacts if more than one patient is in a room (Acute, Sub-acute, SU, Med-Surg, Psych, EACU 675)

Before and after removing gloves

Before handling invasive devices (this includes injections)

After coughing or sneezing, and before handling food and oral medications

Hand sanitizer or soap and water can be used

How to Wash your Hands

or

*things your mother
tried to teach you*

! Wet both hands with
water

! Apply soap

! Rub your hands

together for 15 seconds
(go ahead! Count them, or
sing Happy Birthday)

! Rinse thoroughly

! Dry with paper towel -
and use it to turn off the
water.

Before eating

After using the restroom

Anytime there is visible soil

After caring for a patient with *C. difficile* or spore forming organisms (antiseptic agents have poor activity against spores) - It's the physical action that is effective

Before caring for patients with food allergy

**soap and water is required
for these situations:**



All staff is expected to know and comply with the
3/08 HAND HYGIENE policy
(IFC001 3/1/2008)

All staff is empowered to remind others,
including patients, staff and visitors.

Non-compliance can be reported

Staff may only use cleaning agents
and lotions approved by HEIC