

Infection Control For Nursing Students

Up to 10% of all patients admitted to JHH develop a **Hospital Associated Infection (HAI)** or a resistant organism which may lead to death. HAI's are:

- Infections that start as a result of poor hygienic practices by hospital staff who provide medical or surgical care and/or inadequate environmental cleaning in the hospital
- Not incubating on admission to the hospital
- Acquired, developed or transmitted in the health care setting meaning the patient didn't come to the hospital with this infection.

How can nursing students help prevent HAI's?

Review the JHH **Hand Hygiene Policy** with all of your nursing students each rotation and make sure that they comply with the policy. Hand hygiene is required:

- Upon entering **and** leaving a patient room.
- Between patient contact if more than one patient is in a room.
- Before and after touching a patient who is not in a room i.e. on a stretcher or wheelchair.
- Before donning and after removing gloves.
- Before handling an invasive device (regardless of whether or not gloves are used).
- After contact with body fluids or excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or wound dressings.
- Any time, as needed, i.e. after sneezing or coughing and before handling food or oral medications.

What is your responsibility?

Hand hygiene is calculated in the hospital through the use of "secret shoppers" who visit all areas of the hospital a minimum of 40 times per month. They observe all levels of hospital employees at any time to document the hand hygiene practice witnessed. **Nursing students can and will be observed** and therefore reflected in the unit based compliance. It is important to teach your nursing students to know and practice within the JHH hand hygiene and isolation policies and be aware that not all hospitals have the same policies.

Should I use Purell or Soap and Water?

Purell:

- Primary method for cleaning hands
- Easier to use
- Takes less time
- More effective in killing bacteria than soap and water
- More gentle to hands especially in cold weather

Use Soap and Water:

- When hands are visibly soiled
- After using alcohol-based hand rubs several times (no set number)
- After using restroom
- Contamination with either spore-forming bacteria (such as C. diff) or Noro virus is likely

Remember:

- Wash your hands
- Always use standard precautions
- Follow isolation precautions and wear personal protective equipment
- Cover your sneeze and do not work with a fever
- Artificial nails are prohibited, keep natural fingernails less than ¼ inch

If you have questions or notice a cluster of illness, such as diarrhea, flu, rashes or bug bites, contact Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control, x5-8384 or beeper 3-3855, www.hopkinsmedicine.org/heic.