



Handwashing Information for Hospital Care at Home (HCAH) and HomeMed Infusion Patients

What are the handwashing guidelines for healthcare workers and visitors in my home?

- All healthcare workers must wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub (like hand sanitizer) when entering or leaving a patient's home. Visitors are strongly encouraged to do the same.
- All healthcare workers must wash their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub immediately before any contact with a patient.
- All healthcare workers must clean their hands before and after wearing gloves.

What should I do if I don't see healthcare workers following these guidelines?

If you do not see members of your healthcare team wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub, **it is OK to ask** them to wash their hands. Asking them to clean their hands can help reduce the spread of infections, keeping you and your loved ones safe.

What handwashing guidelines should I follow?

- Patients should wash their hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- If your hands look dirty, wash them for at least 15 seconds using soap and water (instead of hand sanitizer).

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan (U-M) Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition, or your treatment plan.

Author: Giselle King, BS
Reviewers: Noreen Mollon, MS CIC FAPIC, Haley Gurney, MPH CIC
Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW CHES®

Patient Education by [U-M Health](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last revised 09/2024