

University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers

HAND HYGEINE COMPETENCY

Rationale:

Effective hand washing is the single most important procedure for preventing nosocomial infections in a health care setting. If done consistently and effectively it removes hazardous transient microorganisms that often cause disease, decreasing transmission of infections. Health care facility-associated infections affect 1.8 million patients in the U.S. each year. 20,000 of them die as a result (Yoffe, 1999). Nosocomial infections cost an estimated additional \$4.5 billion in patient care costs to health care facilities. Many of these infections could have been prevented by following recommended hand washing techniques.

Nursing Process/Critical Thinking:

All nursing staff should understand how to wash hands effectively.

Checklist for Proper Hand Washing

Table with 3 columns: Verbally Responds to the following questions:, Met, Not Met. Rows include questions about infection prevention, hand washing instances, and a demonstration section with 5 steps.

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