HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR PATIENTS:

Make hand hygiene a topic of conversation with your patients.

ADDRESS HAND HYGIENE BEFORE YOU BEGIN CARE

Explain how and why you clean your hands before, after, and sometimes during patient care.

DISCUSS AND ACT

Let your patients know it's OK to ask you about hand hygiene. They might request that you clean your hands. Put them at ease and clean your hands for them!

Discuss how and why patients should also clean their hands.

THANK THEM FOR BEING ENGAGED IN THEIR CARE

Hand hygiene works better when patients and healthcare providers work together.

Contact CDC:

www.cdc.gov/info
800-CDC-INFO
(800-232-4636)
TTY 888-232-6348

CLEAN HANDS COUNT

Learn more at:

www.cdc.gov/HandHygiene

This material was developed by CDC. The Clean Hands Count Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation and GOJO.

CLEAN HANDS COUNT

FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Protect yourself and your patients from potentially deadly germs.

CLEAN HANDS COUNT

No matter where you treat patients, clean hands count.

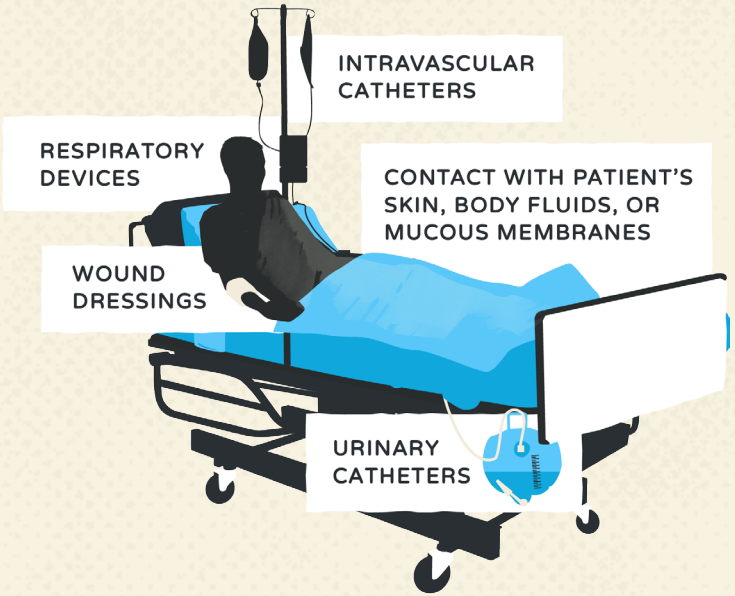
Your hand hygiene affects patients wherever they go...

Did you know...?

- Studies show that some healthcare providers practice hand hygiene **less than half of the times they should.**
- Healthcare providers might need to clean their hands as many as **100 times per 12-hour shift,** depending on the number of patients and intensity of care. Know what it could take to keep your patients safe.

Practice hand hygiene before and after every patient contact.

Clean hands count in the **Patient Zone:**



When using alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

Did you know...?

- **Always use gloves when caring for patients with *C. difficile*.** In addition, when there is an outbreak of *C. difficile* in your facility, wash your hands with soap and water after removing your gloves.
- **For alcohol-based hand sanitizer,** your hands should stay wet for around 20 seconds if you used the right amount.
- When washing your hands with **soap and water,** avoid hot water, to prevent drying of skin, and use disposable towels to dry.

Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.

Dirty gloves can soil your hands. **Always clean your hands** after removing gloves.

It's also important to **remove or change your gloves if:**

- Gloves are damaged
- Moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site
- Gloves look dirty, or have blood or bodily fluids on them after completing a task

Areas you might miss:

These areas are most often missed by healthcare providers when using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.