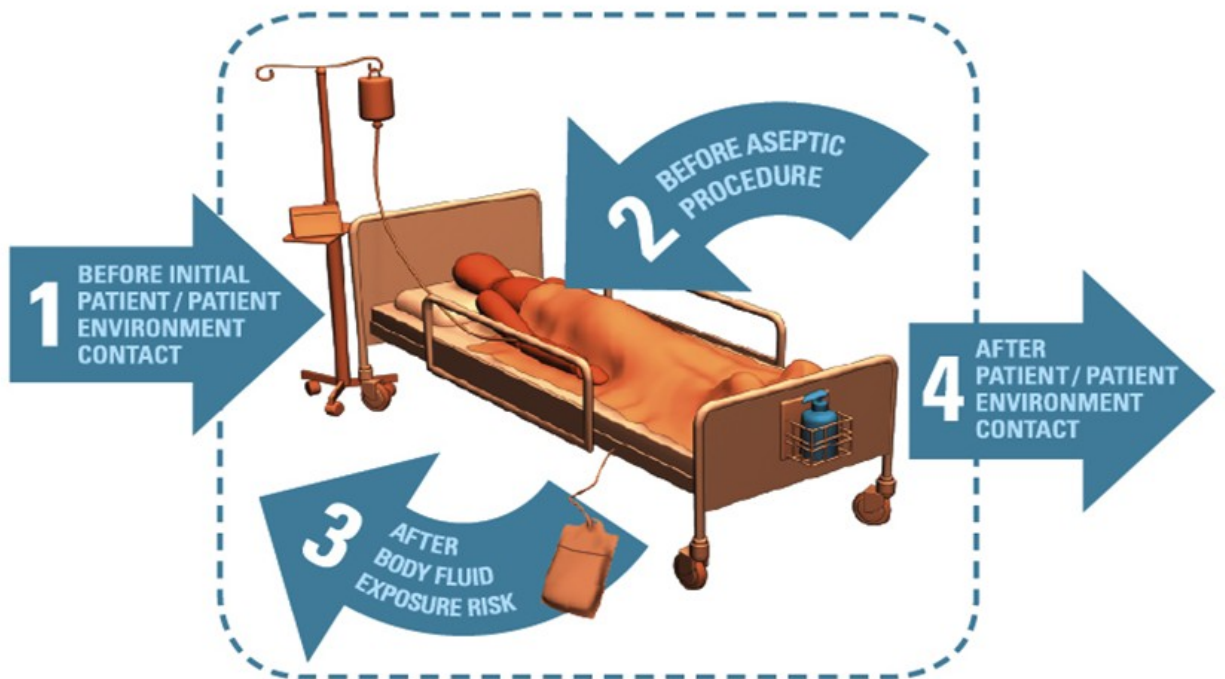


# Hand Hygiene

## DECISION PROCESS

The decision to decontaminate hands should be based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment that microorganisms may have been acquired on the hands and transiently carried to another person or location.

## 4 MOMENTS FOR HAND HYGIENE



# Hand Hygiene (continued)

## WHEN SHOULD HAND HYGIENE OCCUR

- At the beginning of every shift
- Before contact with any patient
- In between contact with each and every patient
- After contact with a patient on Additional Precautions or one who is colonized with microorganisms of special clinical significance, e.g. resistant to a number of antibiotics
- Before performing mouth care
- Before and after contact with susceptible sites, e.g. wounds, burns, IV sites
- Before performing invasive procedures, e.g. where natural defenses against infection are breached
- After hands have been contaminated, e.g. contact with body fluids, soiled linen, equipment or garbage
- After gloves have been removed
- Before handling food or medicines
- Before handling clean linen
- After using the toilet or after toileting others
- Before and after eating
- Prior to entering and leaving a nursing station
- Prior to using computers and other electronic devices

The Infection Prevention and Control Team may request additional requirements for hand hygiene, for example during an outbreak of infection.

## WHEN SHOULD HAND HYGIENE OCCUR—HCC

There may be other times when a healthcare worker may need to decontaminate their hands:

- Before entering a client's home
- Handling items used by clients i.e. clean supplies (adult briefs etc.), medical equipment
- Entering the clinician bag
- After handling pets or medical equipment



For more information, please contact the [Infection Prevention and Control Program](#)