

MODEL HANDWASHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1.0 PURPOSES

The purposes of this policy are to:

- 1.1 Promote the prevention and control of infection.
- 1.2 Establish guidelines for handwashing in the home environment.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Handwashing is the rubbing together of the surfaces of the hands with soap or antimicrobial agent followed by rinsing the hands in clean water.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 All patient care personnel will wash their hands using the technique outlined in this handwashing procedure.
- 3.2 Personnel will wash their hands:
 - 3.2.A After entering the patient's home, before rendering care
 - 3.2.B Before performing an invasive or sterile procedure
 - 3.2.C Before contact with an immunocompromised patient
 - 3.2.D After any care or treatment that involves touching organic materials or open wounds
 - 3.2.E After handling contaminated materials, dressings, or equipment
 - 3.2.F After completing patient care
- 3.3 If gloves are worn, handwashing must follow the removal of gloves.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Remove liquid soap and paper towels from black bag and place beside a sink that has warm, running water.
- 4.2 Roll up sleeves and remove jewelry.
- 4.3 Inspect hands and fingers for cuts or breaks in the skin. Report lesions to your supervisor.
- 4.4 Stand close to the sink, but refrain from leaning against the sink or touching the sink surface during washing.
- 4.5 Turn on the water using a paper towel to cover the faucets as you adjust the water flow and temperature. Water should be warm.