

Hand Hygiene PPM Introduction

Health care associated infections represent a preventable source of considerable morbidity. As microorganisms become increasingly resistant to antimicrobial agents and new organisms appear, prevention of infection becomes an increasingly important component of our healthcare activities. Hand hygiene should be the personal responsibility of every healthcare provider. Sound hand hygiene practices are critical to reducing the spread of serious and potentially fatal infections. Good hand hygiene has been demonstrated to reduce patient morbidity, hospitalizations, and prolonged hospital stays. However, despite widespread education efforts and public awareness, overall healthcare worker compliance with good hygiene practices remains low.

This Performance in Practice Module (PPM) draws on successful hand hygiene quality improvement activities at Novant Health in North Carolina and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. This MC-FP part IV module will provide you with effective strategies and proven intervention tools to enhance hand hygiene. These tools include practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This module includes published guidelines from the CDC and WHO that introduce practice-proven improvement strategies and tips for creating a culture of safety. ABFM believes that participation in this activity will (as has occurred in the North Carolina and New Hampshire projects) lead to decreased health care associated infections in your patient care activities. We hope you enjoy this activity that ABFM has developed in collaboration with the American Board of Pediatrics.