

Hand Hygiene MCI Guideline

Hand hygiene is a well known way to prevent the spread of infections but health care workers do a poor job following hand hygiene recommendations. To protect our patients and our staff Mercy Clinics makes the following recommendations:

1. All staff will decontaminate their hands before having direct contact with patients. Decontamination is also recommended after patient contact.
 - If hands are not visibly soiled an alcohol based hand rub may be used instead of washing
 - This will be done even if gloves are worn.
2. Gels will be available at all exam rooms and other patient care areas.
3. Patients will be asked to decontaminate hands with gel on arrival to the office.
4. Posters will be placed to encourage hand hygiene.
5. Hand lotion will be provided by the clinics for staff use (Accent Plus, by Ecolab, is available from the hospital).
6. Educational information about the importance of hand hygiene will be developed and disseminated throughout the clinics.
7. Clinics will conduct a survey of their physicians and staff to assess current hand washing practices. Results will be distributed in a blinded fashion.

Variation from this guideline is always acceptable if in the opinion of the attending physician individual circumstances require it.