



## National Hand Hygiene Initiative

### SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands Day – 5 May 2009

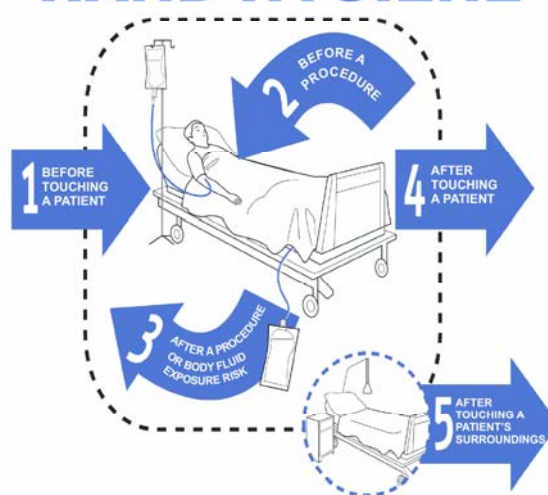
On Tuesday 5 May 2009 Australia is joining the World Health Organization's (WHO) SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands Day. The aim of this day is for all WHO member states to pledge their commitment to hand hygiene by 2010. Australia is taking part by promoting the National Hand Hygiene Initiative which is being rolled out across all public and private hospitals.

The hands of health care workers are the single most important source of preventable hospital-acquired infections because at any one time over 1.4 million people worldwide are affected by healthcare associated infections. These hands can be the mediators of harmful microbes; each touch putting patients lives at risk.

The National Hand Hygiene Initiative, funded by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, has been set up to develop a national hand hygiene culture-change program that will:

- Standardise hand hygiene practice and placement of alcohol-based hand rub in every Australian hospital
- Achieve sustained improvements in hand hygiene compliance rates
- Accurately measure rates of staphylococcal disease - a key outcome measure of the program
- Reduce the rates of healthcare associated infections
- Develop an effective education and credentialing system to improve knowledge
- Make hand hygiene and infection prevention 'core business' for all healthcare institutions
- Development of an implementation plan to implement the education and training modules.
- Development of options and plans for the long term sustainability of improved hand hygiene.

## 5 Moments for HAND HYGIENE



<b>1 BEFORE TOUCHING A PATIENT</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> Clean your hands before touching a patient and their immediate surroundings <b>WHY?:</b> To protect the patient against acquiring harmful germs from the hands of the HCW.
<b>2 BEFORE A PROCEDURE</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> Clean your hands immediately before a procedure <b>WHY?:</b> To protect the patient from harmful germs (including their own) from entering their body during a procedure.
<b>3 AFTER A PROCEDURE OR BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> Clean your hands immediately after a procedure or body fluid exposure risk <b>WHY?:</b> To protect the HCW and the healthcare surroundings from harmful patient germs
<b>4 AFTER TOUCHING A PATIENT</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> Clean your hands after touching a patient and their immediate surroundings <b>WHY?:</b> To protect the HCW and the health care surroundings from harmful patient germs
<b>5 AFTER TOUCHING A PATIENT'S SURROUNDINGS</b>	<b>WHEN:</b> Clean your hands after touching any objects in a patient's immediate surroundings when the patient has not been touched <b>WHY?:</b> To protect the HCW and the health care surroundings from harmful patient germs

Hand Hygiene Australia

Adapted from World Health Organization

### Hand Hygiene Australia

Hand Hygiene Australia commenced operations in June 2008 and is funded by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality on Health Care to standardise hand hygiene across Australia. Resources include:

#### *5 Moments for Hand Hygiene Manual*

This manual outlines in a clear and systematic manner the Hand Hygiene Australia approach to hand hygiene culture-change in Australia based on the World Health Organisations (WHO) Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care.

#### *HHA website*

The website provides an abundance of resources for healthcare workers on all aspects of the initiative, including information on alcohol based hand rubs, detailed explanation of the 5 Moments including video footage, template presentations, audit tools and information brochures. The website is constantly being updated with more resources and up to date information as new literature become available.

#### *HHA training DVD*

The DVD clearly demonstrates the 5 Moments and has a number of examples for each moment geared to educating healthcare workers and how to audit the 5 Moments. The use of the DVD for education and audit training will provide consistency in teaching the 5 Moments to healthcare workers, and ensures that auditors measure compliance in a uniform method, using a standardised tool across all healthcare settings in all jurisdictions. Scenes from the DVD will be built into the HHA website and are also be available on "You Tube".

#### *HHA online learning package*

The online learning package provides healthcare workers with a basic understanding of hand hygiene and its importance in the prevention of infection.

#### *Generic Occupational Health & Safety Risk Assessment matrix*

HHA have developed a Generic Occupational Health & Safety Risk Assessment matrix which Healthcare facilities can use as a template. Issues include flammability, ingestion, splash, and absorption.