

Hand Hygiene and Infection Control

HAND HYGIENE

- Before patient contact
- Before equipment contact
- After contact with blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, wound dressings.
- After handling objects and devices, such as soiled linen, trash, equipment
- After removing gloves or other PPE used for contact with body substances
- After patient contact
- After equipment contact
- If moving from a contaminated-body site to a clean-body site during patient care

Glove Use

- Whenever potential for hand contact with blood/body substance
- Remove gloves immediately after use.

Infection Control

- The bag shall not be placed down on the floor at a patient's home or in a patient room/care area. The bag shall be placed up on a chair or table.
- Skin cleansers and paper towels shall be kept in an outside pocket for available access.
- Prior to administering care, skin cleanser and paper towels shall be removed, the bag shall be opened, and hands shall be cleansed according to HHA policy and procedure.
- After hand cleansing, all the clean supplies and equipment needed for the visit shall be removed from the bag.
- When the visit is completed
 - Contaminated supplies/equipment shall be contained/disposed of, as necessary.
 - Reusable equipment shall be cleaned using alcohol, antiseptic spray and/or soap and water as appropriate:
 - Stethoscope (bell and diaphragm): Cleaned with alcohol/antiseptic spray
 - Bandage scissors: Cleaned with alcohol/antiseptic spray
 - Blood pressure cuff: Cleaned according to the manufacturer's guidelines at a frequency recommended by the cuff manufacturer and whenever the cuff has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials
 - Hands shall be cleansed prior to returning clean equipment and supplies to the bag.
 - Paper towels/newspapers used as a protective barrier for bag placement in the patient's home shall be disposed of properly.
 - Bags shall be washed on a regular basis and as needed:
 - Wash the bag in hot soapy water, rinse and dry in dryer or air dry.
 - Clean the inside of the bag with disinfectant wipes.