

HAIP CONNECTION

Healthcare-Associated Infections and Infection Prevention

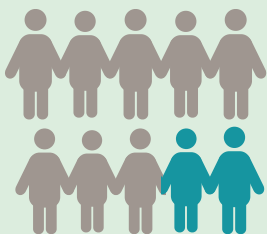
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HAIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

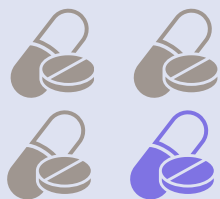
The purpose of the HAIP Program is to support skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities during their response to outbreaks, and to build and maintain infection prevention programs to enhance resident, visitor, and healthcare personnel health and safety.

OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

HAIs ([Healthcare-Associated Infections](#)) can have devastating effects on physical, mental, and emotional well-being. In addition, they cost billions of dollars in added expenses to the healthcare system.



UP TO **70%**
of nursing homes residents
received antibiotics



UP TO **75%**
of antibiotics are prescribed
incorrectly

Source: CDC Antibiotic Use/ Antibiotic Stewardship-Nursing Homes-508.pdf



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Overuse of Antibiotics
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HIGH COST OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

[Antimicrobial resistance](#) (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve and develop different defense strategies to block out antibiotic's actions. As a result, antimicrobials are ineffective, and infections become impossible to treat increasing severe illnesses, and fatal outcomes. In addition, multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria's persistence in healthcare environments elevates the risk of widespread outbreaks, particularly endangering those with weakened immune systems. Such outbreaks not only compromise patient safety but also lead to substantial financial burdens for healthcare facilities due to increased care costs and containment measures.

HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS

Antibiotics, like any drug, can cause various side effects. The harmful effects range from *C. difficile* infection, and diarrhea, to severe life-threatening allergic reactions. In an unnecessary use of antibiotics, the risk of side effects outweighs the benefits.

"PEOPLE ARE 7 TO 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO GET *C. DIFFICILE* INFECTION WHILE ON ANTIBIOTICS AND DURING THE MONTH AFTER." - [CDC](#)

[Studies](#) have found that residents in a high-antibiotic-use nursing home are at a higher risk for harmful side effects due to their risk factors. These include nursing home experience, health care use, diagnoses, functional dependence, continence, and device use variables. Patients frequently receive antibiotics for conditions that typically do not warrant them, such as asymptomatic bacteriuria and viral upper respiratory infections, including the common cold.

WHAT STEPS CAN NURSES TAKE TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY USE OF ANTIBIOTICS?

1. Questioning the medical necessity of urinary cultures.
2. Ensuring proper techniques when collecting a culture.
3. Obtaining and recording an accurate penicillin drug allergy history.
4. Encouraging the prompt transition from IV to PO antibiotics.
5. Initiating an antibiotic timeout.
6. Questioning indication on medication orders.



WHAT ACTIONS CAN FACILITY LEADERS TAKE TO MINIMIZE THE UNNECESSARY USE OF ANTIBIOTICS?



1. Improve antibiotic prescribing practices by implementing or improving antimicrobial stewardship activities.
2. Develop and implement guidelines for diagnosing and treating infections.
3. Educate staff on proper use of antibiotics.
4. See [toolkit](#) to improve antibiotic use in long-term care.
5. [CDPH](#) and [CDC](#) have tools and guidance for the implementation of ASP (Antibiotic Stewardship Program).
6. Read Nursing Home Healthcare Professionals: [Be Antibiotics Aware](#).

HUMAN COST

1.27 million deaths
due to antimicrobial resistance



**1 DEATH EVERY
25 SECONDS**

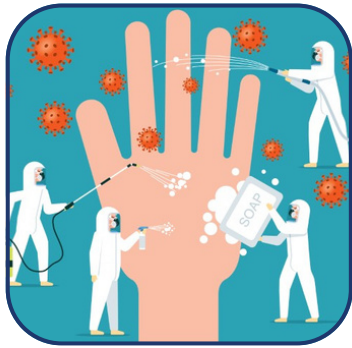
ECONOMIC COST

\$4.6 billion
annually

in the U.S. associated with
treating six antibiotic
resistant threats

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS: HAND HYGIENE

CDC estimates that on any given day, 1 in 31 hospital patients and 1 in 43 nursing home residents has an **HAI** (an infection while being treated in a medical facility). In addition, CDC estimates that on any given day, about half of hospital patients and 1 in 12 nursing home residents receive an antimicrobial medication.



HAND HYGIENE

Healthcare worker hands are the primary conduit for the spread of pathogens. However, many infections are preventable with proper hand hygiene!

WHAT IS HAND HYGIENE?

Hand hygiene means cleaning your hands by using either handwashing (washing hands with plain soap and water), antiseptic hand wash, alcohol-based hand rub, or surgical hand hygiene/antiseptics (extended period with an antiseptic).

WHY PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE?

Cleaning your hands reduces:

- The spread of potentially deadly germs to patients.
- The risk of healthcare provider colonization or infection caused by germs acquired from the patient.

TYPES OF HAND HYGIENE

- 1 Handwashing
- 2 Antiseptic Handwashing
- 3 Alcohol-based hand rub



METHODS FOR HAND HYGIENE

ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER

(60-95% alcohol)

- Put the product on hands and rub hands together
- Cover all surfaces until hands feel dry
- This should take around **20 seconds**

SOAP AND WATER

- Wet your hands first with water
- Apply soap
- Rub your hands together vigorously for at least **15 seconds**, covering all surfaces of the hands and fingers
- Rinse your hands with water
- Use disposable towels to dry and turn off the faucet



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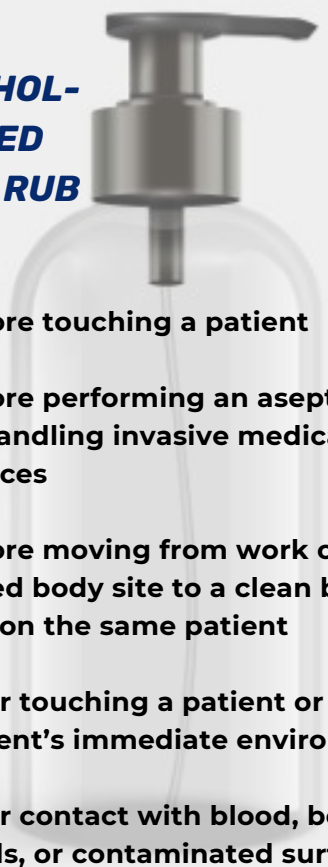
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WHEN IS IT NECESSARY TO PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE?

ALCOHOL-BASED HAND RUB

- 
- ✓ Before touching a patient
 - ✓ Before performing an aseptic task or handling invasive medical devices
 - ✓ Before moving from work on a soiled body site to a clean body site on the same patient
 - ✓ After touching a patient or the patient's immediate environment
 - ✓ After contact with blood, body fluids, or contaminated surfaces

SOAP AND WATER

- 
- ✓ When hands are visibly soiled
 - ✓ After caring for a person with known or suspected infectious diarrhea
 - ✓ After known or suspected exposure to spores (e.g. B. anthracis outbreaks)



GLOVE USE



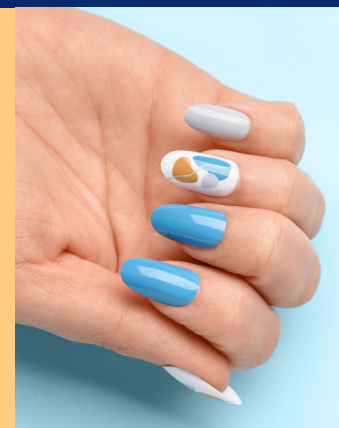
- [Wear gloves](#) when it can be reasonably anticipated that contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, potentially contaminated skin, or contaminated equipment could occur.
- Perform proper hand hygiene prior to donning gloves, before touching the patient or the patient environment, and immediately after removing gloves.

SKIN AND NAIL CARE

- Use hand lotions approved by your healthcare facility in order to not interfere with hand sanitizing products.
- Germs can live under artificial fingernails both **before and after** proper handwashing and using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep natural nail tips less than ¼ inch long to help prevent the spread of germs.

[Patient Safety Awareness Week: March 10 -16, 2024](#)

Download [Patient Safety Awareness](#) Week Tip Sheets and [Staff Resilience and Well-Being PDF](#)



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