

IPC Advice Bulletin for Staff providing Domiciliary Care (Care at Home) Issue No. 08 – April 2018

To further support Care Staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands Day—5 May 2018



Calling all healthcare workers...

**Clean your hands to prevent
sepsis in healthcare!**

Sepsis is estimated to affect more than 30 million patients every year worldwide.

World hand hygiene day takes place on 5th May 2018

Poor hand hygiene results in the spread of micro-organisms (germs), including those that are resistant to antibiotics. This can put service users at risk of potentially fatal infections that can result in sepsis.

Approximately 1 in 10 patients develop a healthcare associated infection every year (*World Health Organisation 2018*).

Healthcare associated infections can lead to hospital admission, delayed recovery, prolonged hospital stay, increased mortality, as well as costing the NHS billions of pounds every year.

One third of healthcare associated infections are estimated to be easily preventable.

Failure of healthcare workers to perform adequate hand hygiene is considered the leading cause of healthcare associated infection.

It is estimated that healthcare workers wash their hands less than half the amount of times they should.

Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent the spread of infection.

The main reasons for wearing gloves are:

- ◆ To protect hands from contamination with blood, body fluids and micro-organisms
- ◆ To reduce the risk of micro-organisms spreading to both service users and staff

Gloves should only be worn when necessary as prolonged use may cause skin sensitivity.

Disposable gloves should be worn as single-use items. They should be put on before an episode of contact with a service user and removed as soon as the activity is completed. Gloves should always be removed before removal of an apron.

Good hand hygiene practice

- ◆ Hands should be washed or alcohol handrub applied immediately before putting on and after removing gloves.
- ◆ Do not wash or apply alcohol handrub to gloves, alcohol handrub may affect the integrity of the gloves.
- ◆ Domestic gloves should be washed with detergent and warm water, rinsed on the outer surface and dried after use.
- ◆ Gloves should not be kept in staff uniform/workwear pockets as they can easily become contaminated.

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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Clean hands can save lives