



Highly Informative Tips (HITs) for Implementation

Hand Hygiene

Check to make sure your system is designed to make it easy for Healthcare Workers (HCW) to wash hands.

Facilities that put antibacterial gel dispensers in the same place in each room and make it clearly visible to the HCW have higher compliance. Likewise, make sure gel dispensers are filled at all times (Work with housekeeping to fill every other day, for example, NOT when they are empty). If HCW go to use a dispenser and it is empty, they will start to doubt the system and are less likely to be compliant in the future. Take a minute to watch the practices of your staff and you will identify many areas that you could improve your system.

Catchy slogans and visible reminders help HCW do the right thing.

One hospital uses "Gel-in Gel-out" posters to communicate the need to wash before and after seeing a patient.

Beware of glove removal contamination.

Educate staff that they must wash their hands even after using gloves because gloves are often contaminated upon removal.

Contamination can occur during "low-risk" procedures.

Patients and HCWs can quickly contaminate an environment especially given the fact that MRSA can survive up to five days on an inanimate object (keyboards, railings, etc.). Although nose is the primary colonization site, HCW can still contaminate their hands even while performing test such as blood pressure, lifting a patient in bed or handling items near the patient.

Engage Patients and Families in Hand Hygiene. Encourage patients to remind HCWs to wash their hands, making sure to educate staff to be receptive to this request.

Patients and family brochures on MRSA are available from IHI.