



Northside Hospital

PHYSICIAN/AHP RESPONSE REQUIRED

Need for Commitment to Infection Prevention: Hand Hygiene

Lack of hand hygiene contributes to the deaths of 90,000 Americans due to healthcare associated infections. One hospital acquired infection (HAI) extends a hospital stays by an average 9 days and costs \$15,000. Studies show that contaminated hands of healthcare workers spread infections. Hand hygiene is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infection.

Today's patients know about HAIs and expect to see you sanitize your hands when you enter their rooms. **Please be advised that we take hand hygiene seriously.** Our facility policy requires all healthcare workers to perform hand hygiene when entering a patient room and when exiting a patient room and to comply with isolation precautions. **Your compliance with this effort to keep our patients safe is not only appreciated, but required.** If your hands are not visibly soiled and the patient does not have clostridium difficile you may use an alcohol based hand rub for routine decontamination of hands. When your hands are visibly soiled and/or your patient is isolated for clostridium difficile please use soap and water using friction to the back of your hands, between fingers, palms and wrists for 10-15 seconds.

We know you take pride in the care you deliver. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to providing safe, effective, efficient and compassionate healthcare.

Physician Name _____ Date: _____

Department _____