



What the Experts Say

The Importance of Bathing

INDUSTRY GUIDELINES

CDC Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities

Recommendations—Water

- I. Controlling the Spread of Waterborne Microorganisms
- B. Eliminate contaminated water or fluid environmental reservoirs wherever possible (e.g., in equipment or solutions). Category 1B

Excerpt from recommendations of CDC and HICPAC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for environmental infection control in healthcare facilities: recommendations of CDC and Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). MMWR 2003;52 (No. RR-10):5,14.

JCAHO 2007 National Patient Safety Goals

Goal 2: Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers.

2C: “Measure, assess and, if appropriate, take action to improve the timeliness of reporting, and the timeliness of receipt by the responsible licensed caregiver, of critical test results and values.”

2E: “Implement a standardized approach to ‘hand off’ communications, including an opportunity to ask and respond to questions.”

2007 Hospital/Critical Access Hospital National Patient Safety Goals. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), 2007.

IHI 5 Million Lives Campaign

3. Inspect Skin Daily

“Adapt documentation tools to prompt daily skin inspection, documentation of findings, and initiation of prevention strategies as needed.”

“Educate all levels of staff to inspect the skin any time they are assisting the patient, for example...while bathing. Upon recognition of any change in skin integrity, notify staff so that appropriate interventions can be put in place.”

Getting started kit: prevent pressure ulcers: how-to guide. Protecting 5 Million Lives from Harm Campaign, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), 2006.

BASIN CONTAMINATION

Of 92 basins sampled, some form of bacteria, including MRSA and VRE, grew in 98% of the samples.

Johnson D., Lineweaver L, Maze L. Patients’ bath basins as potential sources of infection: a multicenter sampling study, AJCC, Vol 18 No 1, Jan 2009.

After one facility removed Comfort Bath to save money by returning to the basin bath, they saw 23 additional UTIs, 151 additional hospital days and a cost of \$107,741.

McGuckin M, Shubin A. Interventional patient hygiene (IPH): case study at the bedside. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehab, Philadelphia, PA. Presented at American Professional Wound Care Assoc National Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 2007.

“The high colony count found in bath water is similar to the number of bacteria found in urine from patients with urinary tract infections.”

Shannon RJ, et al. Patient bath water as a source of nosocomial microbiological contamination: an intervention study using chlorhexidine. J of Healthcare Safety, Compliance & Inf Control, April 1999;3(4):180-184.

“29 recent studies present solid evidence, both epidemiologic and molecular, incriminating the hospital water system as the source of serious waterborne nosocomial infections.”

Anaissie EJ, et al. The hospital water supply as a source of nosocomial infections, Archives of Internal Medicine, July 8, 2002;162(1):1483-1492.

INSPECTING THE SKIN

“Bathing serves three functions: health, social and comfort. Health functions include cleansing the skin, controlling infection and stimulating tissue and muscles. From a clinical perspective, bathing also provides an opportunity to conduct a skin inspection and to test range of motion.”

Bryant RA, Rolstad BS. Examining threats to skin integrity, Ostomy/Wound Management, June 2001;47(6):18-27.

“Implementation of an Interventional Patient Hygiene program consisting of comprehensive bathing...and an easy-to-use communication tool resulted in enhanced staff communication between nonlicensed and licensed personnel and improved patient outcomes.”

“Incidence of new PrUs decreased from 7.14% at baseline to 0%.”

Carr D, Benoit R. The role of interventional patient hygiene in improving clinical and economic outcomes, Advances in Skin & Wound Care, 22(2):74-8, Feb 2009.