



Hand Hygiene Compliance

Research indicates that hand hygiene reduces the risk of healthcare-associated infections, hospital stays and readmissions. It is fundamental to all our patient safety initiatives, and a cornerstone of our infection control and prevention efforts at Halton Healthcare Services. Hand Hygiene will continue to be a key priority of all our patient safety and quality initiatives.

Compliance Rates

Hospitals across Ontario are required to audit and report their hand hygiene compliance rates annually on two indicators, the *Before Initial Patient or Patient Environment Contact*, and, *After Patient or Patient Environment Contact*.

	Compliance Rates			
	BEFORE initial patient or patient environment contact		AFTER initial patient or patient environment contact	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
GH	34%	39.91%	59%	70.83%
MDH	67%	46.93%	86%	71.39%
OTMH	43%	51.32%	55%	75.46%
Prov. Avg.	53%	65.41%	68%	78.49%

Improving Hand Hygiene Compliance

Over the past few years we have focused on improving hand hygiene among our healthcare professionals, support staff, volunteers, patients and visitors at our Hospitals.

- Since 2000 we have continuously been increasing the number of hand hygiene dispensers throughout our hospitals. Many of these dispensers have been strategically placed at the point of care for easier accessibility.
- In 2007 we made completion of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care hand washing training modules a mandatory requirement for all clinical staff and have subsequently conducted follow-up audits of practice.
- We continue to follow the Ministry's Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee's best practice guidelines and have integrated hand hygiene into our practices, policies and procedures.
- In 2008, HHS actively participated in the *Clean Hands Save Lives* Campaign aimed at patients and visitors about the important role they play in infection control.
- Most recently, in 2008, we began implementation of the Ontario *Just Clean Your Hands* campaign, a new evidenced-based, multi-faceted initiative, which trains healthcare workers how to wash their hands "the right way" and "at the right times" before, during, and after the patient care process. (www.justcleanyourhands.ca)