

CMHC INFECTION CONTROL POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 08/19	NUMBER: B-14.22 Page <u>1</u> of 1
	Replaces: 08/18	
	Formulated: 1997	
HANDWASHING		

POLICY: To establish guidelines for handwashing in order to minimize or eliminate transmission of infections.

PROCEDURES

- I. All workers (employees and inmates) must **wash hands** immediately, or as soon as feasible, with soap and water after removal of gloves or other personal protective equipment, especially after situations in which there has been contact with mucous membranes, blood, and other potentially infectious materials, and after touching sources that are likely to be contaminated.
- II. Health care workers must wash their hands:
 - A. Upon arrival at work, before beginning patient care activities.
 - B. Between each patient encounter.
 - C. Before and after any meal or snack.
 - D. After using the restroom.
 - E. After completing patient care activities for the day.
 - F. Whenever the hands become contaminated.
- III. Except for a plain wedding band and watch, no jewelry should be worn during patient care. Bacterial colonization is increased in areas covered by jewelry.
- IV. Fingernails should be no longer than the tips of the fingers. Longer nails may tear gloves or impair the ability to adequately clean the hands for patient care. Artificial nails must not be worn while performing patient care duties involving contact with high risk patients such as ICU or surgical patients. If nail polish is worn it must be in good repair and not chipped.
- V. Where handwashing facilities are not available, an approved **antiseptic hand cleanser** or antiseptic towelette must be made available. Facility health administrators are responsible for coordinating with the warden to determine locations on each facility where antiseptic hand cleansers need to be available. At a fixed handwashing facility, employees must have handwashing available at a reasonable distance from their normal work area (ie, no further than what would be considered reasonable for location of restrooms).
- VI. When antiseptic hand cleansers or towelettes are used, hands shall be washed with soap and water as soon as possible.

References:

OSHA Standard, *Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens*, 29 CFR 1910.1030.
 Garner, JS, Favero, MS, **Guidelines for Handwashing and Hospital Environmental Control**, 1985.