

OCHSNER CLINICAL SCHOOL POLICY	Policy #: OCS 8640-1
Title: Hand Hygiene	Effective Date: 1/1/10

POLICY

Hand hygiene is necessary by all health care and service personnel for prevention of hospital acquired infections and to reduce the incidence of cross-transmission of microorganisms within the medical facility.

PROCEDURES

1. Hand hygiene requirements:
 - A. Prior to and between all patient contacts.
 - B. Before and after all patient care and procedures.
 - C. Before donning gloves and after removing gloves.**
 - D. After visit to restroom.
 - E. Whenever hands become soiled or contaminated.


2. Hand washing technique:
 - A. Turn on water faucet, adjust temperature.
 - B. Wet hands.
 - C. Apply approved hand cleanser onto hands.
 - D. Rub hands vigorously on all surfaces for 15 – 30 seconds.
 - E. Avoid splashing to lessen contamination of other skin surfaces.
 - F. Rinse thoroughly. Keep hands down allowing runoff to go into the sink and not down arms.
 - G. Dry hands well.
 - H. In order to prevent re-contamination of hands; use paper towel to turn off water faucet and to open door.
 - I. Discard paper towel in appropriate container after use.

3. Alcohol Based Waterless Antiseptic Agents:
 - A. Waterless antiseptic agent may be used under the following circumstances:
 - a. Routine disinfection of hands when not visibly soiled with blood or body fluids.
 - b. When immediate access to hand washing facilities is limited.
 - c. During an emergent situation.

 - B. Waterless antiseptic agents are **NOT** to be used when caring for a patient in isolation for *Clostridium difficile*, hands are to be washed with soap and water.

APPROVALS

SIGNATURES:

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "William W. Pinsky".

Professor William W. Pinsky
Head, Ochsner Clinical School
Executive Vice President /Chief Academic Officer