

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. 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 patient or patient environment contact (%)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
GH	79	65	74	77	76
MDH	82	84	79	78	80
OTMH	70	70	71	73	76
Halton Healthcare	74	73	73	74	76

AFTER patient or patient environment contact (%)					
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
GH	84	89	86	89	84
MDH	90	87	88	87	87
OTMH	83	84	84	82	83
Halton Healthcare	87	85	84	84	83

Improving Hand Hygiene at Halton Healthcare

Over the past number of years we have been focused on improving hand hygiene among our healthcare professionals, support staff, volunteers, patients and visitors at our hospitals. These are just a few initiatives:

- Improvements have been made to hand hygiene products including increasing the number of strategically located hand hygiene dispensers at the point of care for easier accessibility and providing centrally locating hand cream dispensers to support care provider skin integrity.
- Halton Healthcare follows the Ministry's Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's best practice guidelines and have integrated hand hygiene into our practices, policies and procedures.
- In 2008, we actively participated in the Clean Hands Saves Lives communication campaign aimed at educating patients and visitors about the important role they play in infection prevention.
- Additionally, we have implemented the Ontario Just Clean Your Hands campaign, an evidence-based multifaceted initiative which trains healthcare providers how to clean their hands "the right way" and "at the right times" before, during and after patient care process.
- Completion of the "Just Clean Your Hands - Your 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene" e-learning module is a mandatory requirement for new employees and for annual re-training sessions
- Improving hand hygiene compliance continues to be a corporate patient safety priority and is included in the Halton Healthcare [Quality Improvement Plan](#).
- We continue to observe and audit our hand hygiene practices regularly, review and communicate the findings to our staff and physicians and look for ways to improve.