



World Hand Hygiene Day

SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands

5 May 2017

EWMA has joined forces with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to support the World Health Organization's (Hand Hygiene campaign in 2017.

This campaign aims at raising awareness among healthcare professionals about the critical importance of hand hygiene in improving patient outcomes.



Why focus on hand hygiene?

Annually, hundreds of millions of individuals globally are affected by health care-associated infections (HCAIs). Systematic reviews of the literature from both developed and developing countries indicate that HCAI is the most frequent adverse event in healthcare. HCAI leads to prolonged hospital stays, long-term disability, increased resistance to antimicrobial medicines, high costs for patients and families, a high financial burden for health systems, and avoidable deaths.

Most health care-associated infections are preventable through good hand hygiene – cleaning hands at the right times and in the right way. The WHO's global campaign SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign and its May 5th World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) aim to galvanize action at the point of care to demonstrate that hand hygiene is entrance for reducing HCAI and increasing patient safety.

Do you want to know more?

Read more about the WHO campaign and download materials at www.who.int/gpsc/5may/2017/en/
Health facilities can sign up to the WHO campaign at www.who.int/gpsc/5may/register/en/

About ICN & EWMA

Read more about the International Council of Nurses and download materials at www.icn.ch

Read more about the European Wound Management Association and download materials at www.ewma.org