FACT SHEET FOR NURSES

**1. BEFORE TOUCHING A PATIENT**

**WHY?**
To protect the patient against colonization and, in some cases, against exogenous infection, by harmful germs carried on your hands

**WHEN?**
Clean your hands before touching a patient when approaching him/her*

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**2. BEFORE CLEAN/ASEPTIC PROCEDURE**

**WHY?**
To protect the patient against infection with harmful germs, including his/her own germs, entering his/her body

**WHEN?**
Clean your hands immediately before accessing a critical site with infectious risk for the patient (e.g. a mucous membrane, non-intact skin, an invasive medical device)*

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**3. AFTER BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK**

**WHY?**
To protect you from colonization or infection with patient’s harmful germs and to protect the health-care environment from germ spread

**WHEN?**
Clean your hands as soon as the task involving an exposure risk to body fluids has ended (and after glove removal)

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**4. AFTER TOUCHING A PATIENT**

**WHY?**
To protect you from colonization with patient germs and to protect the health-care environment from germ spread

**WHEN?**
Clean your hands when leaving the patient’s side, after having touched the patient

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**5. AFTER TOUCHING PATIENT SURROUNDINGS**

**WHY?**
To protect you from colonization with patient germs that may be present on surfaces / objects in patient surroundings and to protect the health-care environment against germ spread

**WHEN?**
Clean your hands after touching any object or furniture when living the patient surroundings, without having touched the patient

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STOP THE SPREAD OF INFECTION & PREVENT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE WITH THE WHO 5 MOMENTS FOR HAND HYGIENE

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References

- [http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/campaign_policymakers.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/campaign_policymakers.pdf?ua=1)

Based on the “Crowd People poster” © World Health Organization 2017

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1. 1 in 10 patients acquire an infection while receiving healthcare
2. Improving hand hygiene practice can lead to a reduction of the spread of pathogens in healthcare by 50% or more
3. Improving hand hygiene is one of the key aspects to delivering quality care to patients
4. Handwashing education in the community reduces diarrhea illness by 31% and respiratory illnesses by up to 21%