

# Glossary

The following terms are referred to throughout this training package:

## Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

An alcohol-containing preparation designed for application to the hands in order to reduce the number of viable organisms with maximum efficacy and speed.

## Bacteraemia

The presence of bacteria in the blood.

## Body Fluids

Any substance secreted by the body with the exception of sweat.

These include:

Blood, Lochia, Saliva, Secretions from mucous membranes, Pus, Gastric and respiratory secretions, Semen, Tears, Wax, Breast milk, Colostrum, Urine, Faeces, Meconium, Vomitus, Pleural fluid, Cerebrospinal fluid, Ascites fluid, Biliary fluid, Bone Marrow, Pus, Organic body samples – e.g. Biopsy samples, organ and cell samples.

## Body Fluid Exposure Risk

Any situation where contact with body fluids may occur. Such contact may pose a contamination risk to either HCW or the environment.

## Colonisation

Is the sustained presence of replicating infectious agents on or in the body without the production of an immune response, infection or disease, and is a potential source of transmission.

## Contact

The touching of any patient, their immediate surroundings or performing any procedure.

## Emollient / Humectant

Ingredient(s) added to hand hygiene products to moisturise and protect the skin from frequent product use.

## Glove use

Glove use by HCWs is recommended for two main reasons: to prevent micro-organisms which may be infecting, commensally carried, or transiently present on HCW's hands from being transferred to patients and from one patient to another; and to reduce the risk of HCWs acquiring infections from patients.



## Hand Care

Actions to reduce the risk of skin damage or irritation. For example, using a moisturiser regularly throughout the day.

## Hand Hygiene (HH)

A process that reduces the number of micro-organisms on hands. Hand hygiene is a general term applying to the use of soap/solution (non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial) and water or a waterless antimicrobial agent to the surface of the hands (e.g. alcohol-based hand rub).

## Hand Hygiene Action

A Hand Hygiene Action can be undertaken either by rubbing with an ABHR, or hand washing with soap and water.

## Hand Hygiene Compliance (HHC)

Is a measurement of appropriate HH. It is defined when HH is considered necessary and is classified according to one of the “5 Moments”.

If the action is performed when there is no indication and it has no impact in terms of preventing microbial transmission, then it is not considered to be an act of HH compliance.

The number of *Moments* constitutes the denominator for assessing HH compliance. The actual HH actions undertaken are compared to the number of *Moments* observed to calculate the rate of HH compliance.

HH non-compliance is defined when there is an indication for HH (i.e. a “*Moment*”) and yet no HH was undertaken.

## Hand Hygiene Moments

*Moments* are based on those defined by the WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene. Some minor modifications have been made for Australian healthcare conditions. A *Moment* is when there is a perceived or actual risk of pathogen transmission from one surface to another via the hands. HCWs’ hands will come in contact with many different types of surfaces while undertaking a succession of tasks.

The 5 Moments for HH are:

- Moment 1:** Before touching a patient
- Moment 2:** Before a procedure
- Moment 3:** After a procedure or body fluid exposure risk
- Moment 4:** After touching a patient
- Moment 5:** After touching a patient’s surroundings

## Hand Hygiene Product

Any product used for the purpose of HH, including soap and water

### **Hand washing**

The application of non-antimicrobial soap and water to the surface of the hands.

### **Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI)**

Infections that originate from, or are related to, a healthcare setting or the delivery of healthcare.

### **Healthcare Surroundings**

Refers to all regions outside of the Patient zone. This includes the curtains, partitions and doors between separate patient areas.

### **Health Care Worker (HCW)**

Any employee of a healthcare institution who has patient care responsibilities and / or contact with a patient, or a patient's surroundings (see Contact).

### **Hospital-associated infections (HAI)**

An infection that was not present or incubating prior to the patient being admitted to the hospital, but occurred > 48 hours after admittance to the hospital. HAI's are also termed nosocomial infections.

### **Infection**

Is the successful transmission of microorganisms to the host with subsequent multiplication, colonisation and invasion. Infection may be clinical or subclinical, and may not produce identifiable disease.

### **Invasive Medical Device**

Any piece of equipment that enters a patient's skin or body cavity. This encompasses the entire device (e.g. IV line, IV pump and IV pole).

### **Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)**

*Staphylococcus aureus* that is resistant to methicillin/flucloxacillin. Commonly referred to as "golden staph".

### **Methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus***

*Staphylococcus aureus* that is susceptible to methicillin/flucloxacillin.

### **Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)**

Is an area concerned with protecting the safety, health and welfare of people engaged in work or employment. The goal of all occupational safety and health programs is to foster a safe work environment.

**Patient**

Refers to any part of the patient, their clothes, or any medical device that is connected to the patient.

**Patient contact or direct patient contact**

This involves touching the patient, and their immediate surroundings or performing any procedure on the patient.

**Patient Immediate Surroundings**

The Patient Surroundings is the space temporarily dedicated to an individual patient for that patient's stay. This includes furniture, medical equipment, medical charts and personal belongings that are touched by the patient and HCWs while caring for that patient.

**Patient Zone**

Includes the Patient and the Patient Immediate Surroundings.

**Point of Care**

The place where three elements come together: the patient, the HCW, and the care or treatment involving contact with the patient or his/her surroundings. A hand hygiene product should be easily accessible and as close as possible – within arms reach of where patient care or treatment is taking place. Point of care products should be accessible without having to leave the patient zone.

**Procedure**

Is an act of care for a patient where there is a risk of direct introduction of a pathogen into the patient's body.

**SAB**

*Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia

**Standard Precautions**

Are work practices that provide a first line approach to infection prevention in the healthcare environment. They should be adopted by all healthcare workers in all healthcare facilities.

**Sterile task**

A task performed in such a way as to avoid microbial contamination or inoculation.

**WHO**

The World Health Organisation