20% to 50% is NOT Good Enough

Most studies indicate that health care workers decontaminate their hands only 20 to 50% of the times that they should. This is part of the reason why 5% of inpatients in US hospitals pick up infections during their stay.

CDC Guidelines call for hand decontamination before and after patient contact and provide information on the best use of gloves, alcohol hand rubs, soaps, lotions, etc.

VHA has put the CDC's recommendations in a 1-page summary. Ask your facility Infection Control Professional or Patient Safety Manager for a copy of the summary or access it on the VA intranet at:

http://vaww.ncps.med.va.gov/hand_hygiene/summary.html