Clean Hands Prevent Germs from Spreading in this Hospital

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently gave hospitals new guidance to help prevent patients from getting infections. The guidance focuses on how hospital staff need to clean their hands. The biggest change you will see is more staff using alcohol gels and foams to clean their hands. The CDC guidance tells us that the alcohol gels and foams are easier to use than soap and water, and that alcohol is also better at killing most germs.

These points summarize what you should now expect as a patient or visitor in this VA hospital:

- ✔ Staff using an alcohol gel or foam, or soap and water, to kill the germs on their hands before and after they touch with a patient.
- ✔ Staff putting on gloves before touching broken skin or open wounds.
- ✔ Alcohol gel or foam dispensers in or at the entryway to all patient rooms.

What you can do to help:

- ✔ You should feel free to ask doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and others about the steps the hospital is taking to help staff keep their hands clean.
- ✔ If you didn't see a staff member clean their hands before touching a patient, you should feel free to ask or remind them about the need to clean their hands.
- ✔ If you are a patient or visiting a patient, you should use the alcohol gel or foam dispensers too.

Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards
NCPS VA National Center for Patient Safety
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