

### Background/Rationale:

- Hand hygiene is the most important way to prevent the spread of bacteria which cause infections.
- Improving healthcare personnel adherence to hand hygiene practices can reduce both infections and the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- Although most bacteria and viruses are effectively killed by alcohol-based hand rubs or washing with soap and water, *C. difficile* spores are not killed by alcohol hand rubs or removed by hand washing.
- Use of gloves in addition to hand hygiene is very important to prevent hand contamination from *C. difficile*. But, gloves are not a substitute for performing hand hygiene.
- Hand hygiene adherence among healthcare personnel remains disappointingly low; many studies report less than half of health care personnel perform appropriate hand hygiene.
- Proper hand hygiene must be understood by all people working in a healthcare facility.
- Effective hand hygiene programs must go beyond training to identify and address barriers to hand hygiene, including availability of and satisfaction with hand hygiene products.
- Providing feedback about hand hygiene performance can raise hand hygiene awareness and promote better adherence among healthcare personnel.

### Current activities survey:

SECTION 1. KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCY				
		YES	NO	N/A
Q1	Does your facility have an annual hand hygiene training program for all healthcare personnel*?			
Q2	Can healthcare personnel describe situations when hand washing with soap and water is preferred over use of alcohol-based hand products?			
Q3	Does your nursing home assess healthcare personnel hand hygiene technique (i.e., they can do hand hygiene properly)?			
Q4	Does your nursing home assess healthcare personnel knowledge of indications for hand hygiene during resident care activities?			
Q5	Do residents and family members receive education about the importance of hand hygiene in prevention the spread of infections?			
SECTION 2. INFECTION PREVENTION POLICIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE				
		YES	NO	N/A
Q1	Does your nursing home have a written hand hygiene policy?			
Q2	Has your nursing home assessed the availability of hand hygiene products in all resident care areas*?			
Q3	Has your nursing home assessed healthcare personnel satisfaction with hand hygiene products available in all resident care areas?			
Q4	Does your nursing home utilize cues to action (e.g., posters, pamphlets, resident engagement) to enhance healthcare personnel and visitors awareness and performance of appropriate hand hygiene?			
SECTION 3. MONITORING PRACTICES				
		YES	NO	N/A
Q1	Does your nursing home monitor healthcare personnel adherence to hand hygiene at regular intervals?			
Q2	Does your nursing home have a process for providing feedback to healthcare personnel about hand hygiene performance?			

\* **Healthcare personnel** - All paid and unpaid persons working in the healthcare setting; **Resident care areas** - Areas in the nursing home where direct resident care is provided (for example, resident rooms, common bathing room, therapy rooms, procedure/exam rooms, etc)