

Adopted

CLASSIFICATION: STATEMENT OF FACT OF PRINCIPLE

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ACCESSIBLE HAND HYGIENE FOR PATIENTS

SUBMITTED BY: THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF NURSING:

AUTHORS: Emily Pilling and Mandee Barrera

1 WHEREAS, Nosocomial infections remain a problem in healthcare today because of  
2 the increase in severity of illnesses, seen specifically in Intensive Care  
3 Units, and the use of invasive procedures and techniques as well as the use  
4 of immunosuppressive and antimicrobial therapies (Vandijck, Labeau,  
5 Vogelaers, & Blot, 2010); and  
6 WHEREAS, Nosocomial infections pose a major impact clinically and economically in  
7 terms of excess morbidity, mortality, and hospital expenditures and can be  
8 prevented by basic nursing skills and knowledge (Vandijck, Labeau,  
9 Vogelaers, & Blot, 2010); and  
10 WHEREAS, Hand hygiene practices, such as washing hands with warm water and soap  
11 and the use of alcohol-based products are well known, recognized, and  
12 efficient means of lowering the nosocomial infection rate (Gagné, Bédard,  
13 & Maziade, 2010); and  
14 WHEREAS, Since health care workers, such as nurses, are required to practice  
15 appropriate hand hygiene, increases in nosocomial infection rates may be  
16 due to patients, their relatives, and visitors who represent an unaccounted  
17 for mode of transmission for nosocomial infections (Gagné, Bédard, &  
18 Maziade, 2010); and

19 WHEREAS, Patient education about nosocomial infection and instruction to patients  
20 and their visitors to use an alcohol-based waterless rinse twice daily for  
21 an entire year at a community hospital in Canada resulted in an overall  
22 decrease in the rate of MRSA nosocomial infections by 51% per 1,000  
23 admissions (Gagné, Bédard, & Maziade, 2010); and

24 WHEREAS, Consistent hand hygiene amongst patients and their visitors appears to be  
25 inexpensive as the above study resulted in a yearly net savings of  
26 \$688,843 Canadian dollars, which approximately equals \$681,954 U.S.  
27 dollars (Gagné, Bédard, & Maziade, 2010); and

28 WHEREAS, Providing patients with the tools and knowledge to perform proper hand  
29 hygiene empowers the patient to take charge and be a part of their care and  
30 safety while in the hospital (Gagné, Bédard, & Maziade, 2010) and;

31 WHEREAS, This knowledge, power, and vigilance for nosocomial infection prevention  
32 encourages other health care workers, such as physicians and nurses, to  
33 increase their own compliance with proper hand hygiene (Gagné, Bédard,  
34 & Maziade, 2010); and

35 WHEREAS, A study conducted at 17 Veteran's Administration hospitals throughout  
36 the country demonstrated that education, posters in rooms, performance  
37 feedback, and bedside accessible alcohol-based rinses motivated proper  
38 hand hygiene compliance amongst nurses (Burkitt et. al, 2010), and  
39 therefore may be useful in motivating patients; and

40 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides posters,  
41 brochures, and videos about the proper techniques for hand hygiene, as

42 well as the importance of hand hygiene for both health care workers and  
43 patients in the hospital setting, in the web document Hand Hygiene in  
44 Healthcare Settings; and therefore be it

45 RESOLVED, That hospital administrations are encouraged to provide alcohol-based  
46 waterless rinses to patients' bedsides for patient-use, especially in clinical  
47 areas, such as the ICU and Medical-Surgical units, where patients may be  
48 immobile or unable to access a sink to wash their hands and be it further;

49 RESOLVED, That nurses and nursing students remind and encourage patients to use  
50 proper hand hygiene, especially after using the bathroom and before  
51 meals, and when available to provide alcohol-based waterless rinses to  
52 patients and patients' visitors; and be it further

53 RESOLVED, That an increase in the research on the topic of patient-transmitted  
54 nosocomial infections and effective interventions for nosocomial infection  
55 prevention be encouraged; and be it further

56 RESOLVED, That nurses and nursing students promote and educate the use of proper  
57 hand hygiene techniques and its importance by posting materials, such as  
58 posters and written hand-outs, provided by the Centers for Disease  
59 Control and Prevention website, in patients' rooms and/or areas visible to  
60 the patient and patient visitors; and be it further

61 RESOLVED, That after consistent use and encouragement of the above mentioned  
62 resolutions, proper patient hand-hygiene becomes a standard of care; and  
63 be it further

64 RESOLVED, That if passed, TNSA will forward this on to the NSNA and send copies  
65 of this resolution to American Association of Colleges in Nursing, the  
66 World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
67 Services, the American Nurses Association, the Agency for Healthcare  
68 Research and Quality, the American Hospital Association, the  
69 International Council of Nurses, the National Council of State Boards of  
70 Nursing and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

## References

- Burkitt, K. H., Sinkowitz-Cochran, R. L., Obrosky, D. S., Cuerdon, T., Miller, L. J., Jain, R., . . . Fine, M. J. (2010, May). Survey of employee knowledge and attitudes before and after a multicenter Veterans' Administration quality improvement initiative to reduce nosocomial methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 38, 274-282.
- Gagne, D., Bedard, G., & Maziade, P. (2010, February). Systematic patients' hand disinfection: impact on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection rates in a community hospital. *Journal of Hospital Infection*, (75), 269-272.
- Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings. (2010, August 5). Retrieved January 1, 2011, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/>
- Vandijck, D. M., Labeau, S. O., Vogelaers, D. P., & Blot, S. I. (2010). Prevention of nosocomial infections in intensive care patients. *Nursing in Critical Care*, 15(5), 251-256.

Estimate of Cost

Printing: 5 pages at \$0.10 per page X 10 copies=	\$5.00
Envelopes: 10 envelopes at \$0.15 per envelope=	\$1.50
Mailing: 10 stamps at \$0.44 per stamp=	\$4.40
Total=	\$10.90

Addresses for Resolution to Be Sent To

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality 540 Gaither Road Rockville, MD 20850	American Association of Colleges in Nursing One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530 Washington, DC 20036
American Hospital Association 155 N. Wacker Dr. Chicago, Illinois 60606	American Nurses Association 8515 Georgia Avenue Suite 400 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492
Institute for Healthcare Improvement 20 University Road, 7th Floor Cambridge, MA 02138	International Council of Nurses 3. , Place Jean Marteau 1201 - Geneva Switzerland
National Council of State Boards of Nursing 111 East Wacker Drive Suite 2900 Chicago, IL 60601-4277	National Student Nursing Association 45 Main Street Suite 606 Brooklyn, NY 11201
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201	World Health Organization Avenue Appia 20 1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland