



# St Vincents University Hospital Hygiene Services Information for Patients/Visitors/Public



## Introduction:

Hygiene is a fundamental component of a hospital's quality system to ensure the safety and well being of its patients and staff and plays a role in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infection. The Hygiene Services Assessment Scheme is mandatory for all Acute Hospitals

Hygiene is defined as:

*"The practice that serves to keep people and environments clean and prevent infection. It involves the study of preserving one's health, preventing the spread of disease, and recognising, evaluating and controlling health hazards. In the healthcare setting, it incorporates the following key areas: environment and facilities, hand hygiene, catering, management of laundry, waste and sharps and equipment" (IHSAB 2006)*

## Hygiene Services Assessment Process:

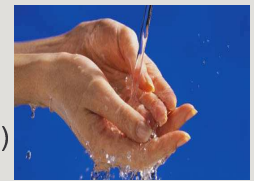


## Core Criteria:

To provide quality hygiene services an organisation must ensure that there is a continual focus on core areas of the service. To ensure that there is a continual focus on the principal areas, 15 core criteria have been identified within the standards to help the organisation and the hygiene services to prioritise areas of particular significance. Of these, 7 service delivery standards require mandatory compliance.

## Mandatory Core Criteria:

- Management of Hand Hygiene
- Management of Waste and Sharps
- Management of Linen
- Management of the Environment
- Catering (Departmental and Main Kitchens)
- Management of Cleaning Equipment
- Management of Patient Equipment



## Hospital Hygiene Quality Improvement Group

St Vincent's Hospital Hygiene Quality Improvement Group meet once a month to review the hygiene services in the hospital. Examples of items reviewed:

- Operational day-to-day activities throughout the hospital site with regard to hygiene services.
- Hygiene policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Recommendations and results of internal and external hygiene audits.
- Hospital- wide hygiene audit programme.

## Guidelines

**DON'T PASS IT  
USE IT !! →**



## Infection Prevention & Control

The aim of the Infection, Prevention & Control Team is to prevent and reduce the number of infections within St Vincent's University Hospital.

In order to achieve this, it is essential that hospital staff, you and your relatives work together. There are a number of ways that this can happen.

Please make sure to wash your hands as directed. Hand hygiene has an important role to play in Infection, Prevention & Control and it is an effective means of preventing cross infection. A clean environment is also crucial in stopping the spread of infection. Furthermore, anyone experiencing symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea should not visit you in the hospital. If you have any concerns or require additional information ask a nurse or doctor who is caring for you.

## Remember

- Wash your hands -
- Use soap and water or Alcohol Gels



## Hygiene Services

It is the responsibility of everyone, staff, you and your relatives to follow recommended hygiene practices and to help maintain a clean environment. Please use the hand gel provided entering and leaving the ward areas and use the waste bins provided for rubbish. Together we will keep our hospital clean

## References:

- Hygiene Services Assessment Scheme, Irish Health Services Accreditation Board July 2006
- St Vincent's University Patient Information Booklet May 2008