



Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
UW Medicine  
Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

*Working together to cure cancer*

## Hand Hygiene – It is everyone's responsibility

### It's OK To Ask

**Practicing good hand hygiene is the single most important thing we can do to stop the spread of infection.**

It's a healthy habit for anyone, whether you are in the hospital, at work or at home. Here are a few reasons why hand hygiene is so important to your care:

- Germs are everywhere.
- Sick people get infections easier.
- Infections can keep patients in the hospital longer.
- Even healthy people can spread germs.
- Good hand Hygiene is a healthy habit.

### HAND HYGIENE AT THE SEATTLE CANCER CARE ALLIANCE

At the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, we require that all healthcare providers wash their hands with soap and water or a waterless alcohol-based hand rub, before treating each patient. This simple act is extremely effective at reducing the number of germs present on the skin.

#### What You Can Do?

- **It's OK to Ask:** As a patient, be an active participant in helping your Seattle Cancer Care Alliance healthcare team prevent the spread of infection. In fact, hand hygiene should be done by everyone – even visitors. It only takes a few simple words to help encourage this healthy habit: **"Excuse me, did you clean your hands?"** or **"I saw that you cleaned your hands – thank you!"**
- **Fill out our survey:** Help keep the Clinic safe by completing the hand hygiene survey (if requested). Please drop off your completed survey in a patient comment box. They are located at the front desk on each floor of the Clinic.



QUESTIONS ABOUT HAND HYGIENE?  
Contact Infection Control at 206.288.2145