



# Northwest Renal Network

***Helping Navigate Kidney Disease***

## Patient Bulletin



**Our mission is to promote optimal dialysis and transplant care for kidney patients in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington**

### **We Can Help With:**

**Care concerns**

**Patient rights**

**Transplant**

**Treatment options**

**Travel and dialysis**

**Questions about employment**

**Access to our library of resources**

## *Clean Hands Can Save Lives*

It's okay to ask your health care providers if they have cleaned their hands - either with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleaner.

**Hand hygiene is the number one way to reduce infections in the dialysis center.**



### Indications for hand hygiene specific to dialysis centers:

- Before and after touching a patient
- Before handling an invasive device or performing any vascular access procedure
- After contact with body fluids, dialysate, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or wound dressings
- If moving from a contaminated body site to another body site during care of the same patient, such as care of a wound followed by manipulation of a dialysis catheter
- After contact with environmental surfaces and objects (including medical equipment, dialysis machine) in the dialysis station
- Before handling medication or preparing food
- After removal of gloves

### Staff is also required to:

- Wear disposable gloves when caring for patients or touching the patient's equipment at the dialysis station
- Remove gloves and wash hands between each patient or station
- Change gloves often during patient care

***So pay attention and gently remind staff if you observe improper hand hygiene. Your welfare is important.***

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