



Recommendations for Placement of Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) and Hand Lotion

Alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) must be placed appropriately in order to create a user-friendly hand hygiene environment.

A user-friendly environment supports the use of ABHR following the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene.

4 Moments for Hand Hygiene:

In health care delivery, the required moments for hand hygiene are:

- 1. Before patient contact:** Clean hands before contact with the patient or the patient's environment.
- 2. Before an aseptic task:** Clean hands immediately before an aseptic task and before donning gloves.
- 3. After body fluid exposure risk:** Clean hands immediately after an exposure risk to body fluids and after removing gloves.
- 4. After patient contact:** Clean hands after contact with the patient or the patient's environment.

Products must be:

- Located where they are needed,
- Available in appropriate numbers,
- Clearly visible,
- Within reasonable reach,
- Unobstructed,
- Fully stocked,
- Fully functional,
- Cleaned regularly.

Place ABHR:

- At the *point-of-care* (i.e. within arm's reach or within 3 feet (91 cm) of the care provider). Point-of-care is when three elements are present at the same time (the patient, the health care provider and care involving contact);
- at least one ABHR is located by each bed in multi-bed rooms;
- *outside* of patient care rooms, within a comfortable reach of the door, on the same side of the door as the door handle;
- by the door *inside* the room;

- by the door to the soiled utility room;
- within comfortable reach of:
 - specimen drop-off bins
 - blood analysis machines
 - urine analysis machines
 - pneumatic tube systems
 - in and round nursing stations
 - affixed to computer carts and portable equipment if possible
- at the main entrance to the clinical area.

ABHR should be:

- in clear view upon room entrance;
- securely fixed to a vertical surface if wall-mounted;
- wall-mounted dispensers must be installed with the nozzle 37-47 inches (94-120cm) from the floor.

Do not place ABHR:

- immediately next to sinks or soap dispensers;
- near sources of ignition;
- where it will be blocked by moveable objects (such as medical equipment) or fixed objects (such as pillars);
- in a location where it will block objects such as power outlets.

Hand Lotion:

Is an important adjunct to hand hygiene and should be available to all care providers. Only approved products should be used.

Lotion should be wall-mounted in non-public areas with the nozzle 37-47 inches (94-120cm) from the floor.

Refilling and Maintaining Dispensers:

It is recommended to assign responsibility for refilling and maintaining dispensers to a defined staff member or service provider.

Reference: Canadian Patient Safety Institute. (2010). *Hand Hygiene Human Factors Toolkit*. Retrieved from www.handhygiene.ca