

HAND HYGIENE

CLEANING AND DECONTAMINATING HANDS IN THE PREHOSPITAL SETTING

Proper hand hygiene in healthcare is the single most important means for prevention of infection transmission.

For decades, improving compliance with hand hygiene practices has been a challenge for infection control professionals whether in the hospital or in the prehospital setting.

The availability and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizing products as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings* has stimulated interest in improving hand hygiene practices in health care settings. The guideline recommends the use of alcohol-based rub-in handwashes (gels, rinses, and foams) for routine hand decontamination in most clinical situations.¹

Researchers report that alcohol-based hand rubs are not appropriate for use when hands are visibly dirty or contaminated with proteinaceous materials.^{1,2,3} In these situations, it is recommended that hands should be washed with plain soap and water or antimicrobial soap and water. Based on these guidelines, EMS and first responder personnel are at a disadvantage since handwashing facilities are usually not available when hands become contaminated with organic matter or visible soil.

A CALL TO ACTION

To remedy this situation, Sani-Dex ALC Antimicrobial Alcohol Gel Wipes were developed to provide both the ability to clean hands if contaminated with organic matter or visible soil; and to kill 99.99% of germs that may cause cross-contamination and infection transmission. Sani-Dex ALC provides the mechanical friction to physically remove soil and bacteria from hands, an important function that rub-in alcohol handwashes cannot accomplish. Gels, foams, and rinses kill germs, but leave debris and soil behind.

The technique used for applying alcohol-based hand products also contributes to the efficacy of the product. Frequently, the user of alcohol-based handrubs applies an inadequate volume of product to the hands, thus not covering all surfaces and repeated applications may be necessary to ensure efficacy. A study conducted with trained infection control profes-

Notes:

¹ Boyce JM, Pittet D. Guideline for hand hygiene in healthcare-settings: recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HIPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002.

² McDonald LC. Hand hygiene in the new millennium: drawing the distinction between efficacy and effectiveness. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2003; 24:157-59.

³ Larson EL, APIC Guidelines Committee. APIC guideline for handwashing and hand antiseptics in health care settings. *Am J Infect Control* 1995; 23:251-69.

⁴ Widmer AF, Dangel, M. Alcohol-based handrub: evaluation of technique and microbiological efficacy with international infection control professionals. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2004; 25:207-209.



sionals resulted in 63% of the participants having detectable bacteria after hand antiseptics.⁴ However, users of alcohol gel hand wipes have a greater tendency to reach those frequently missed areas. Sani-Dex ALC Antimicrobial Alcohol Gel Hand Wipes are presaturated with the sufficient volume of alcohol to cover all areas of hands and using the wiping motion enhances proper technique.

PDI, Professional Disposables International, is dedicated to developing infection control products for the many situations encountered in the prehospital setting. Sani-Dex ALC is our latest contribution to the advancement in hand hygiene. To learn more, visit www.pdipi.com or call 800-999-6423.

Proper Hand Sanitizing Technique

When Using A Sani-Dex[®] ALC Antimicrobial Hand Wipe



Pull wipe up and tear to one side at perforation. Close lid tightly.



Wipe fingertips and nails individually.



Wipe between all fingers of both hands.



Wipe both thumbs.



Wipe palms of both hands thoroughly.



Wipe backs of hands.



Wipe both wrists and forearms.



Discard wipe in appropriate container.



Professional Disposables International
PDI, The Healthcare Division of
Nice-Pak Products, Inc.
An ISO 9001:2000 Certified Company
Two Nice-Pak Park
Orangeburg, NY 10962-1376
Phone: (845) 365-1700
Fax: (845) 365-1729
1-800-999-6423 in USA
1-800-263-7067 in Canada
+44 (0) 1352-736700 in Europe
www.pdipdi.com

Wet wipes are
the best choice
for infection
control.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Be sure to use every portion of the wipe.