

Clean Hands Paper Tool Definitions and Instructions

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If you have any questions or comments regarding this information please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Hand Hygiene Program at: hand.hygiene@ahs.ca.

Healthcare provider

Healthcare provider means any person who provides goods or services to a patient, inclusive of healthcare professionals, staff, students, volunteers and other persons acting on behalf of or in conjunction with AHS. Refer to the [Healthcare Providers List](#) for more information. Use a healthcare provider descriptor as an aid to keep track of healthcare providers throughout the hand hygiene review.

Hand hygiene moment

A risk of micro-organism transmission from one surface to another, from one patient to another, or from one body site to another by the hands of healthcare providers. Alberta Health Services [Hand Hygiene Policy](#) outlines [4 Moments](#) for hand hygiene which is based on the risk of micro-organism transmission when a healthcare provider is interacting with a patient.

- Moment 1 – Before contact with a patient or patient’s environment (BEF-PAT/ENV).
- Moment 2 – Before a clean or aseptic procedure (BEF-ASP).
- Moment 3 – After exposure or risk of exposure to blood or body fluids (AFT-BFL).
- Moment 4 – After contact with a patient or patient’s environment (AFT-PAT/ENV).

Hand hygiene observation

A hand hygiene moment that was or was not performed by a healthcare provider but was required in accordance with the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene as per Alberta Health Services Hand Hygiene Policy as observed by a trained Hand Hygiene Reviewer. One hand hygiene observation can arise from multiple moments resulting in one single act of hand hygiene being compliant or non-compliant for multiple hand hygiene moments.

Gloves

When a hand hygiene moment occurs select GLOVES if the healthcare provider is wearing gloves. When a hand hygiene moment occurs and hand hygiene is not performed before [donning](#) or after [doffing](#) gloves, the hand hygiene moment is considered a MISS.

Additional parameters

Select NAILS, BRACELETS, RINGS or NO SOAP if appropriate.

- Nails - Artificial nails, nail enhancements (including acrylic or gel nails), chipped nail polish or nails tips that exceed 0.25 inches or six (6) mm.
- Bracelets - Wearing a bracelet(s).
- Rings - Wearing a ring(s) other than a plain band.
- No soap - Performs hand washing with no soap. When a hand hygiene moment occurs and hand washing is performed with no soap the hand hygiene moment is considered a MISS.

Canned comments

When a hand hygiene observation is missed Hand Hygiene Reviewers can select a reason for the miss from a list of Canned Comments. Refer to the [List of Canned Comments when using the Clean Hands Paper Tool](#) for more information. Add a Canned Comment for all hand hygiene observations considered a MISS.

Free-text comments

When a hand hygiene observation is missed Hand Hygiene Reviewers can write a reason for the miss.