



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

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Information for:

- Managers
- Staff
- Physicians

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Alcohol-Based Hand Rub Safety Guidelines

Good hand hygiene practices are essential in preventing healthcare acquired infections, and alcohol-based hand rub (**ABHR**) is an effective and accessible product. However, ABHR can pose a risk to patients (includes clients, residents) and result in harm, including death, if ingested.

Action

Adhere to the following guidelines when providing ABHR products in areas accessible to patients and the public:

- [ABHR: Dispenser Placement Guidelines](#)

Use a collaborative approach to ensure ABHR dispensers are located close to clinical care areas where monitoring is easy to achieve and opportunities for intentional ingestion, vandalism, and theft are minimal. ABHR dispensers available at AHS:

- **Wall mounted dispensers** should be located 1.1 -1.32 m above the floor, with a minimum distance of 1.2 m between dispensers, and include a drip tray with a narrow gap that prohibits the easy fit of a cup or container.

- **Portable bottle dispensers** should be limited to easily monitored areas, not exceed 400 mL, and secured to the surface with a locking device.

- **Personal dispensers** should be used in areas where wall mounted or portable dispensers would compromise patient safety.

- [ABHR: Product Ingestion Risk Screening](#)

Complete a Substance Misuse Screen to determine if a Safety Plan for ABHR ingestion should be initiated.

- [ABHR: Product Ingestion Care Management Guidelines](#)

If you suspect a patient has ingested ABHR, **Call PADIS (the poison center) 1-800-332-1414** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and speak with an Information Specialist.

- Report ABHR ingestion related adverse events, close calls, and hazards in RLS.