

Bag Technique & Hand Hygiene in Home Care: The Science & Practical Approaches

Introduction

- The most important infection prevention activity that staff can deploy when implementing bag technique is performing hand hygiene (McGoldrick)
- Nursing bags move from patient home to patient home and with this Multidrug resistant organisms (MDRO) can also be transmitted from home to home

What Can You Do?

- Bags need to be cleaned when moving from one environment to another
- Suggested cleaning times include:
 - Anytime when visibly soiled
 - Minimally on a **monthly** basis when surface barrier is routinely used under the bag
 - Minimally on a **weekly** basis for the external surfaces and monthly for the interior surfaces when surface barrier is not routinely placed under the bag
- This includes all bags such as those used for scales, laptops, stethoscopes, etc.
- There are no standards or guidelines for the frequency in which the nursing bag should be cleaned.

What is in Your Nursing Bag?

Two Compartments

- Single Use items such as:

- Disinfectant wipes
- Alcohol prep pads
- Wound care dressing supplies
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Gowns
- Face masks
- Face shields

- Reusable items such as:

- BP cuff
- Bandage scissors
- Oximeter



The Big Question...

Where do I put my bag in the patient's home?
This question has been debated for a long time
Here are the guidelines

- Place the bag in a clean area of the house
- A non wheeled bag can be placed on a visibly clean, dry and flat surface
- If a clean dry surface is not available, place on a barrier, or hung on the back of chair or doorknob
- Do not contaminate the home with your bag don't put a non wheeled bag on the patient's bed, or put wheeled bag on furniture
- Keep bags away from bugs, pets and places where there may be possibility of high bacterial count
- Supplies taken out of the bag should be placed on a water proof barrier
- In general barriers for a bag are not needed unless there are visible or known conditions in the home

What About the Car?

- FIRST RULE: Bag should be placed in a clean dry area free of food, dirt and other items that could promote bacterial growth
- Therefore, DO NOT place bag on the floor of the vehicle
- Some items cannot be stored in extreme temperatures should be kept in the temperature controlled area of car.

These include:

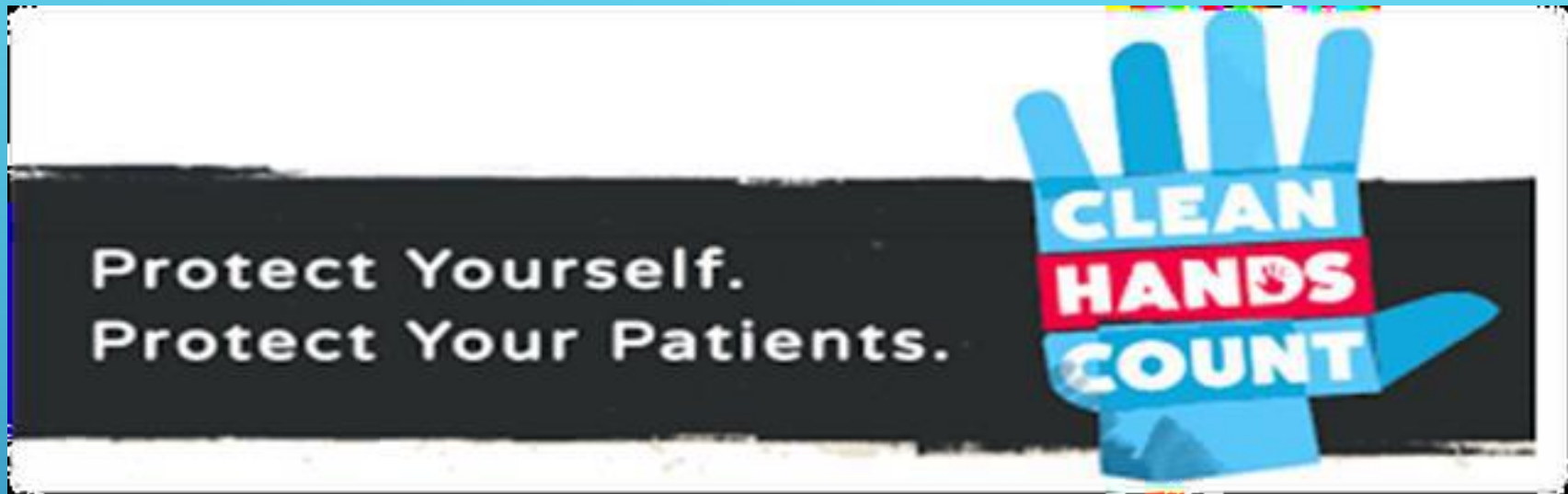
- Alcohol based hand hygiene products
- Disinfectants
- Point of care testing supplies.



Using the Right Barriers

- Barriers are used to minimize the transmission of pathogens
 - Poly backed towels
 - Plastic bag
 - Disposable under pads (chux)
 - Wax paper
 - Plastic bag
 - Or the appropriable part of bag
- Do not use paper towels, or newspapers





The CDC Clean Hands Count Campaign

- The most important infection prevention activity that staff can deploy when implementing bag technique is performing hand Hygiene

Goals of CDC campaign:

- Improve healthcare provider adherence to CDC hand hygiene
- Address the myths and misperceptions about hand hygiene
- Empower patients to play a role in their care by asking or reminding healthcare providers to clean their hands



Key Take Aways

- The most important infection prevention activity that staff can deploy when implementing bag technique is performing hand Hygiene
- In general barriers for a bag are not needed unless there are visible or known conditions in the home. If a clean dry surface is not available, place on a barrier, or hang on the back of chair or Doorknob
- Using an alcohol based hand sanitizer is the preferred way to keep your hands clean
- The time it takes is less important than making sure you clean all areas of your hands.
- Always clean your hands after removing gloves Dirty gloves can soil hands
- Never go back into the bag with gloves on
- Know which type of PPE to use for each situation