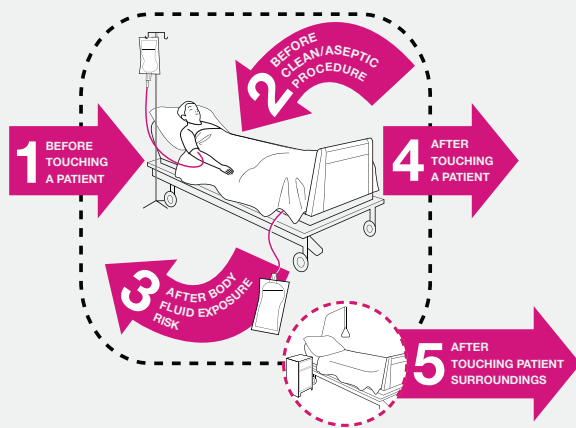


# The Role of Hand Hygiene in Reducing Health Care-Associated Infections (HAIs)

The simple act of hand hygiene remains the primary way to reduce HAIs and the spread of potential pathogens. Raising awareness about why, how, when and where hand hygiene is essential can help improve hygiene-critical environments such as hospitals and help create a healthier world.

## When Hand Hygiene Matters: 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene<sup>4</sup>



1. Before touching a patient
2. Before clean/aseptic procedures
3. After body fluid exposure/risk
4. After touching a patient
5. After touching patient surroundings

### Possible Hygiene Risks on Hospital Surfaces

Of the five moments of hand hygiene, the fifth moment is often overlooked.

Through in-depth bacteria tests of surfaces, researchers found that patient's immediate surroundings harbored potential pathogens. The surfaces included textiles, such as privacy curtains or bedding in neonatal incubators; patient bed guardrails; and floors in patient wards, toilets and showers.<sup>5</sup>

## Why Hand Hygiene Matters in Health Care Settings



Of every **100** hospitalized patients at any given time, **7** in developed and **10** in developing countries will acquire at least **one health care-associated infection**.<sup>1</sup>



**Up to 2 in every 5 cases** of HAIs are caused by cross-infection via the hands of health care workers.<sup>2</sup>



The promotion of good hand hygiene improves compliance and reduces the risk of health care-associated infections by **60%**.<sup>3</sup>

## How to Help Prevent the Spread of HAIs



1. Educate staff and visitors about the importance of the 5th moment in hand hygiene.



2. Have clear, detailed routines for cleaning patient areas.



3. Sanitize and/or wash hands after contact with all patient surfaces.



4. Clean patient textiles frequently or use disposable products.

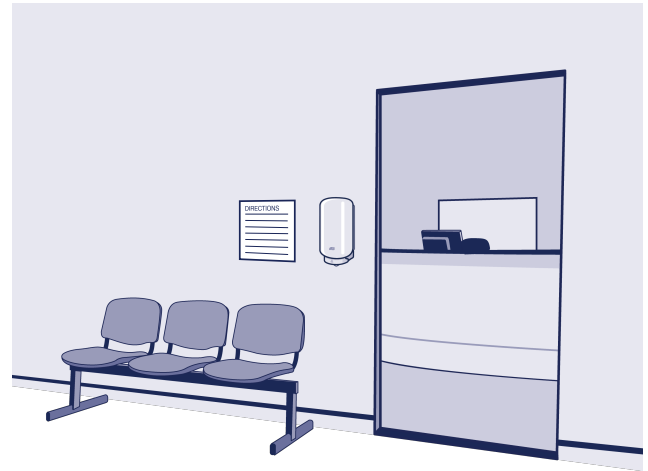
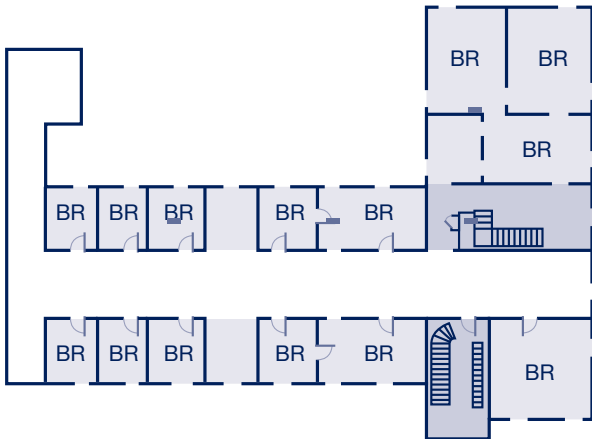


5. Improve compliance by optimizing hand hygiene dispenser placement throughout health care facilities.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!  
With the Hand Hygiene Challenge  
START THE QUIZ

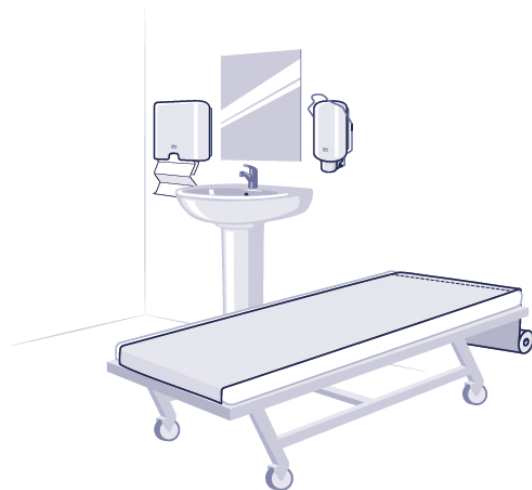
# Dispenser Placement Matters

Ensuring correct dispenser placement throughout health care facilities is essential to improving hand hygiene practices. In fact, optimizing dispenser placement can increase usage by more than 50%.<sup>6</sup>



**1.** Create a work-flow study to optimize dispenser placement, based on your hospital's unique layout.

**2.** Clearly position dispensers near the entrance and provide clear and simple information about hand hygiene.



**3.** Place multiple dispensers throughout semi-private patient rooms to eliminate the need to look for dispensers.



**4.** Position dispensers on a walking route near the nursing station entrance, as many patient care episodes begin or end here.<sup>7</sup>

## About Vinnova I-Text Study

To learn how to decrease health care-associated infections (HAIs), SCA was one of the main contributors to Vinnova's two-year study involving thirteen partners, including hospitals, research institutes and private companies. SCA invested more than 2,000 hours in helping to make the project a success.



Private  
Organizations  
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Hand Hygiene



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