



Sentinel Event Alert

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Infection control related sentinel events

Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc., and the Infectious Diseases Society of America).

The hand hygiene guidelines are part of an overall CDC strategy to reduce infections in health care settings and to demonstrate that organizations can help prevent the spread of germs from one patient to another by improving hand hygiene. Information about the guidelines is available from the CDC, APIC, SHEA and IDSA, and promotional materials may be obtained from the CDC at www.cdc.gov. "Clean hands are the single most important factor in preventing the spread of dangerous germs and antibiotic resistance in health care settings," says Julie Gerberding, M.D., director, CDC. "More widespread use of these [alcohol-based handrub] products that improve adherence to recommended hand hygiene practices will promote patient safety and prevent infections."

Joint Commission plans to review its existing infection control standards and survey process with the help of a newly appointed infection contro