

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL  
HANDWASHING/INFECTION CONTROL**

=====

**Effective Date:** June, 2006

**Cross Referenced:**

**Reviewed Date:** 5/2012

**Revised Date:** 6/08

**Policy No:** GENLAB 11.07

**Origin:** General Lab

**Authority:** Laboratory Director

**Page:** 1 of 1

---

**PURPOSE:** To prevent spread of possible infection.

**POLICY:** As follows.

All personnel will be taught proper hand washing techniques thorough orientation and inservice. Refer to IC Policy 001 for specific directions. Periodic monitoring and review, especially for employees who have patient contact, those who prepare or serve food, and those who handle supplies and equipment used by patients is essential.

**Hand Washing Indications:**

1. Before beginning work
2. Before performing invasive procedures
3. Before and after contact with wounds
4. After handling used equipment
5. Before and after eating
6. Before and after toileting
7. In between each patient contact
8. Whenever gloves are removed and before donning new gloves

**Length of Time:**

Generally, 15 seconds between routine patient contact is sufficient.

**Hand Washing Technique:**

1. Use continuously running water and plenty of soap.
2. Apply with vigorous contact on all surfaces of hands.
3. Keep hands down at all times so any runoff will go into the sink and not down the arms.
4. Avoid splashing, rinse thoroughly, and dry well with paper towels.
5. Discard towels in the receptacle provided for that purpose.
6. Use a paper towel to turn off faucets.

**Hand Washing Products:**

A lotion-antiseptic liquid in a disposable inner container is available at all hand washing stations throughout the hospital. In addition, waterless (foam) cleanser is available on the floors and at many other locations throughout the hospital.