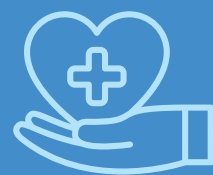


Hygiene in health facilities

SUPPORTING HEALTH WORKERS TO LEAD QUALITY CARE



May 5th marks two important global advocacy days — Hand Hygiene Day and International Day of the Midwife. This year’s Hand Hygiene Day campaign focuses on the prevention of sepsis, a leading cause of death for patients, particularly mothers and newborns. Meanwhile, International Day of the Midwife celebrates midwives leading the way with quality care.

Many midwives provide care without access to vital water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies and infrastructure. This makes proper hand hygiene impossible, and puts patients and health workers at increased risk of infection.

6 MILLION

DEATHS ARE CAUSED
BY SEPSIS EVERY YEARⁱ

SEPSIS: CAUSES AND IMPACT

Sepsis occurs when the body is responding to an infection. It can lead to organ failure, shock, and death.ⁱ Sepsis is the third most common cause of maternal mortality.ⁱⁱⁱ Infections, including sepsis, led to nearly 400,000 newborn deaths in 2016 alone, accounting for 15% of newborn mortality.^{iv} Sepsis often is caused by an infection acquired in a healthcare setting.ⁱⁱ

CLEAN HANDS PREVENT SEPSIS

To protect themselves and their patients, healthcare staff must wash or disinfect their hands at all critical moments.ⁱⁱ On average, 61% of all healthcare workers are not adhering to recommended handwashing practices recommended by WHO.^{ix}

44% ↑

POTENTIAL INCREASE IN NEWBORN SURVIVAL
RATES WHEN HANDWASHING AND CLEAN BIRTH
PRACTICES ARE IN PLACE.^{vi}

66%

OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN LMICS
LACK SOAP AND PIPED WATER FOR
HANDWASHING.^{vii}

QUALITY CARE IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT WASH

Health facilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) often lack the basic supplies and infrastructure needed for quality care and appropriate hand hygiene. Access to water and soap is not the only reason for low handwashing rates — behavior change in healthcare facilities is essential.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

WHO’s campaign has five calls to action for health workers and leaders in health systems:



HEALTH WORKERS: Prevent sepsis by cleaning your hands at the five key moments. Encourage your colleagues to do the same.



LEADERS IN INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL: Promote and champion hand hygiene to prevent sepsis.



HEALTH FACILITY LEADERS: Ensure that hand hygiene is a quality indicator in your facility.



MINISTRIES OF HEALTH: Implement the 2017 WHA sepsis resolution. Make hand hygiene a national marker of health care quality, monitoring access to soap and water as well as hand hygiene behaviors.



PATIENT ADVOCACY GROUPS: Demand providers observe the five key moments of clean hands to prevent sepsis in health care.

In addition to these calls to action, everyone has a role to play in preventing sepsis by advocating for improved water, sanitation, and hygiene in health facilities. Join us to call for the policies, investments, and infrastructure that will make it possible for everyone to access care from a health worker with clean hands.



LEARN MORE:

CAMPAIGN SITE: ***Save Lives: Clean your hands.***
World Health Organization

CAMPAIGN SITE: ***International Day of the Midwife.***
International Confederation of Midwives.

FACT SHEET: ***Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Facilities.***
Global Handwashing Partnership.

ADVOCACY MATERIALS: ***Clean Hands for All Advocacy Toolkit.*** Global Handwashing Partnership.

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GLOBAL
HANDWASHING
PARTNERSHIP



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Water, Sanitation,
and Hygiene