

Five rules for hand hygiene observation

1

Observe HCW's hand hygiene upon **entry** and/or **exit** from patient environment, defined as:

- Room entry (sliding door): Crossing over the threshold.
- Room entry (swinging door): Crossing past the area of the door swing. Note: Contact with the patient or items in the patient environment while still within the area of the door swing also considered room entry.

3

HCW **exiting** a room exhibiting signs of having performed hand hygiene (drying hands with paper towel, rubbing hands together after foam use) should be considered compliant.

4

Do not guess. Do not record observation if your view is blocked or you cannot confirm whether hand hygiene was performed.

5

Do not exceed three observations per HCW in one session.

2

Five situations for hand hygiene:

- Health care worker (HCW) must use dispenser outside of patient door if hands are **empty** prior to entrance.
- HCW entering/exiting a room with **full** hands (i.e. linens, food trays, supplies) **do not** need to perform hand hygiene immediately at the door. He/she should use the nearest dispenser or sink **after** setting down or putting items away (in the room, soiled utility room etc.).
- HCW may exit the room and walk directly to a dispenser or sink nearby as long as he/she doesn't touch anything in the interim.
- HCW who performs hand hygiene on room **exit** and goes directly to another patient room without touching anything, is **ok** to enter the patient room without using dispenser on room entrance.
- HCW transporting patient in a wheelchair, cart or bed must perform hand hygiene upon room exit and entrance.