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.

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.

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.