

Answers to the competency test for observers

Review the scenarios below and record them on a hand hygiene data collection form just as you would if you were watching the situation on a nursing unit. Do not read into the situation; what is written is all you are able to observe.

1. A physician cleans her hands with hand sanitizer and heads toward a patient room. Her cell phone rings and she answers, looks up something on the computer, and then enters the patient room 10 minutes later.
 - c. No wash on entry
2. A nurse enters a patient room and begins talking with a patient as she heads to the sink to wash her hands. After drying her hands, she takes the patient's blood pressure.
 - a. Wash on entry
3. A nursing assistant walks out of a patient room rubbing his hands together and shaking them dry.
 - b. Wash on exit
4. A physician enters a patient room holding coffee and a chart, bypassing the hand sanitizer dispenser.
 - c. No wash on entry
5. A phlebotomist arrives at a patient's room. The phlebotomist puts on gloves and enters the patient's room to draw a blood sample.
 - c. No wash on entry
6. A staff member from Food and Nutrition applies hand sanitizer to his hands, enters the patient's room to deliver a tray, then applies hand sanitizer again on his way out of the room.
 - a. Wash on entry and exit
7. A nurse prepares to enter an isolation room by putting on a gown and gloves. She then enters the patient room.
 - c. No wash on entry
8. A nurse applies hand sanitizer before entering a patient room. She then enters the patient room and turn off the IV alarm. She realizes that she forgot a pair of gloves she will need to assess the patient's wound. She exits the patient room, grabs gloves, and re-enters the room to perform patient care.
 - b. Wash on entry, no wash on exit, and no wash on entry

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9. A code blue is called. Three health care workers run into the patient room without washing their hands to stabilize the patient.
- e. Would not monitor in an emergency situation
10. A physical therapist enters a patient room without washing her hands. She asks the patient several questions while resting her hands on the bedrail. She exits the room without washing her hands.
- b. No wash on entry or exit
11. A physician and a fellow use the hand sanitizer dispenser at the nurse's station. They both go directly into a patient's room.
- a. Wash on entry
12. A housekeeper uses the hand sanitizer dispenser, puts on gloves, then enters a patient room to begin daily cleaning.
- a. Wash on entry
13. A phlebotomist arrives on the unit already wearing gloves. She enters a patient room to draw a blood sample.
- c. No wash on entry
14. During physician patient rounds, the attending physician applies hand sanitizer when leaving the patient room then immediately enters the next patient room while continuing to rub hand sanitizer into her skin.
- a. Wash on entry and exit
15. A nurse runs into a patient room as the patient begins falling from his bed.
- e. Would not monitor in an emergency situation
16. A dietary tech picks up a tray, enters a patient room, places the tray on the patient's table, leaves the room and picks up another tray. The dietary tech is not wearing gloves per the hospital's infection control policy.
- c. No wash on entry or exit