



JOINT COMMISSION JEWELS

NPSG #7: Reduce the risk of health care-associated infections.

07.01.01: Comply with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines.

1. Wash hands for 15-20 seconds before and after patient or patient-care equipment contact, after contact with blood, body fluids, or potentially contaminated items, after removing gloves, when they are visibly soiled, before eating and after using the bathroom.
2. Alcohol based hand rub can be used as an adjunct to hand washing.
3. Wear gloves appropriately. Remove gloves after use, always wash hands after removing gloves.
4. Maintain fingernail length to 1/4 inch or less. Artificial nails, nail extenders, overlays, tips, wraps or nail jewelry are not permitted.
5. Waterless hand antiseptic (i.e. foam or gel) may be used between caring for patients if hands are not visibly soiled.

07.03.01: Implement evidence-based practices to prevent health care-associated infections due to multi-drug resistant organisms in acute care hospitals.

1. Four examples of MDROs are MRSA, VRE, C.Difficile and ESBL.
2. The prevention and control of MDROs is a national priority. Trinitas practices include hand hygiene, isolation precautions, Root Cause Analysis of C.Diff, and antibiotic restriction.

07.04.01: Implement evidence-based practices to prevent central line associated bloodstream infections.

The central line bundle includes:

1. Hand hygiene
2. Staff education
3. Central line cart containing all equipment including maximum barrier precautions
4. Appropriate site selection; Chlorhexadine/BIOPATCH
5. Daily goals/daily rounds

07.05.01: Implement evidence-based practices for preventing surgical site infections (SSI).

1. A surgical site infection is an infection that develops within 30 days after an operation or within one year if an implant was placed and the infection appears to be related to surgery.
2. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Skin antisepsis
 - Surgical instrument and environmental management to reduce the risk of SSI