

# 1. Best Practice for hand wash stations to minimise the risk of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* contamination

- 1.1 Only use the hand wash station for hand washing <sup>1</sup>
  - Do not dispose of body fluids at the hand wash basin – use the dirty utility area.
  - Do not wash any patient equipment in hand wash basins
  - Do not use hand wash basins for storing used equipment awaiting decontamination
  - Wash patients, including neonates, on augmented care units<sup>2</sup> with water from outlets demonstrated to be safe established by water sampling and risk assessment.
- 1.2 Use **all** hand wash stations regularly
- 1.3 Flush **all** taps on augmented care units regularly (manually or automatically) and keep a record of when they were flushed.
- 1.4 Identify any problems or concerns relating to safety, maintenance and cleanliness of hand wash stations to the Infection Prevention & Control team and the Estates and Facilities Department
- 1.5 Maintain good dialogue and communication between the Director of Infection Prevention and Control, the Infection Prevention and Control, Estates and Augmented Care Unit(s) teams at all times.
- 1.6 Do not locate alcohol gel dispensers at hand wash stations – locate at the point of care or use individual hand-rub dispensers
- 1.7 Use pre-filled single-use bottles for alcohol based handrubs or cleaning solutions. Do not top-up cleaning spray, alcohol or other bottles.

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<sup>1</sup> Advice on hand hygiene can be found at: epic2: National evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in NHS hospitals in England (2007) *Journal of Hospital Infection* 65 (Supplement). Available from: <http://health.tvu.ac.uk/richardwells/pdfs%20and%20documents/epic2-final%20glines.pdf>

World Health Organisation <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/background/5moments/en/>

<sup>2</sup> For example high dependency, adult and neonatal critical care, renal, transplant, haemato-oncology and burns units

- 1.8 Ensure that cleaning staff have been trained on the correct cleaning procedures for taps and sinks and follow the guidance in the Healthcare Cleaning Manual for cleaning hand wash basins paying particular attention to limescale deposit. See <http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?EntryId45=61830>

## 2. Best Practice for assessing and managing the risks\* in augmented care units<sup>1</sup> to minimise the risk of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* contamination

- 2.1 Set up a Water Safety Group to develop a water safety action plan for the Trust - see link for more information [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548106\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548106_eng.pdf)
- 2.2 Trusts should develop a risk assessment and written scheme specific to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in addition to that in place for *legionella*. The risk assessment should identify elements such as: at risk patients and services, the suitability of the water distribution system – including types of taps used, identifying under-used outlets and hand wash basins, use of flexible hoses.
- 2.4 Ensure a policy is in place to demonstrate compliance with the Code of Practice for the prevention and control of infections and related guidance<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.5 Ensure the details of the Responsible Person (Water) as required by HTM 04-01 are easily accessible.
- 2.5 Ensure correct clean and dirty separation is maintained along with use of sink free zones for high risk procedure areas, for example, where intravenous drugs are being prepared.
- 2.6 Ensure taps and thermostatic mixing valves (manual and automated) have been commissioned (including programming auto flushing cycles), and routinely validated, as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- 2.7 Advice can be obtained from the Health Protection Agency via the Regional Microbiologists and Health Protection Units where concerns are identified

\* Technical guidance on testing, sampling and managing the risk of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* contamination in augmented care units will be published at the end of March 2012

1 For example high dependency, adult and neonatal critical care, renal, transplant, haemato-oncology and burns units

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122604](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122604)