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Would You Please Wash Your Hands?

This is a question that no patient should have to ask of the doctor or other office health care providers. There is no doubt that improved hand washing decreases the spread of germ causing infections. Reasons for not washing range from simple forgetfulness to thinking you are too busy to pause between patients. Others rely on gloves, forgetting that they need to scrub before donning them and change gloves between each patient. There is no question that improved hand hygiene reduces the spread of infection.



The following are ways to improve the practice in your office:

- Post hand hygiene statements at each sink in your office.
- Use alcohol based hand rubs or soap and warm water.
- Instruct staff to wash for at least 15 seconds before and after direct contact with a patient or after handling body fluids, contaminated surfaces or objects.

As always, if you observe noncompliance by a staff member, a gentle reminder is a good first step to improving behavior.

If you have any further questions, please use the "Contact Us" button to the left.

This information is not intended to be inclusive nor is it intended as legal advice.

*- Lorrie Ames & Ann Whitehead,
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