



# DE~BUGGED

Infection Control Newsletter for Worcestershire Primary Care and Mental Health Partnership Trusts

## THE FIVE MOMENTS OF HAND HYGIENE

Hand Hygiene is the single most important factor in the prevention and spread of infection. This approach recommends health-care workers clean their hands



**before touching a patient,  
before clean/aseptic procedures,  
after body fluid exposure/risk,  
after touching a patient, and  
after touching patient surroundings.**

Remember Bare below the Elbows guidance—see Issue 26 for more details or visit [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) to review the 2010 publication on uniform and workwear guidance.

It is an evidence-based, field-tested, user-centred approach that is designed to be easy to learn, logical and applicable in a wide range of settings. It is promoted by the NPSA cleanyourhands campaign and also the World Health Organisation. To facilitate compliance it is therefore essential that staff within the PCT and Mental Health Partnership Trust can access appropriate products for hand hygiene at all the times they may be required, this therefore requires healthcare staff to carry personal issue alcohol hand gel products. For more information on these products please contact the Infection Control Nurses on 01386 502552.

Worcestershire 

Primary Care and Mental Health Partnership Trust

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If you require further information about any item in this newsletter please contact the Infection Control Nurses on 01386 502552



## CQC REVISITED...



CQC assessors make unannounced visits to ensure that they see healthcare settings as a patient or a visitor would. They focus on certain areas of practice to form a snapshot of the organisation's activities related to infection control. Potentially they can visit at any time and will expect healthcare staff to consistently have a knowledge of:

-  infections that present and how they are managed (including a knowledge of MRSA screening)
-  when not to come to work eg stay off work for 48 hours following viral gastro-enteritis
-  how to deal with spillages of blood/body fluids
-  what the cleaning schedules for environment/equipment are and the colour coding system in use
-  how to contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team for advice
-  where to access policies and procedures and leaflets on infections for patient/staff
-  what actions to take following an inoculation injury.

If you are unsure on any of the above then please contact us for more information...

## OCTENISAN BODY WASH FOR MRSA DECOLONISATION- TIPS FOR SUCCESS



From time to time, the Infection Control Team have student nurses out on 8 week placements with them. Kathryn Thorneloe was on placement during April and May and as part of her objectives has written this short report for De-Bugged...

Octenisan is a wash lotion for hair and body specially formulated to remove a broad range of micro-organisms including MRSA from the skin. Using the Octenisan body wash as prescribed and directed may help prevent an infection developing. Incorrect usage of this product is not going to be as effective so it is very important to know how it should be applied and what can be done to promote its efficacy. It is essential that both staff and patients are aware of the correct technique, listed below are 5 simple steps to follow:

1. Ensure hair and body are wet (Hair should be washed on day 2 & day 4 of treatment, on days 1,3 & 5 it is only the body that requires washing).
2. Put Octenisan onto a clean damp washcloth
3. Wash all over body with Octenisan - pay special attention to: Arm pits, Navel (tummy button), Groin (perineum)
4. Rinse it off after 3 minutes
5. Dry with a CLEAN towel

Remember patients should be using Octenisan body wash every day as a liquid soap for a shower, bath or wash. It is easier to use in a shower, however if patients are unable to get in a shower, it is acceptable to use the lotion for a daily strip wash. Hair should be washed with Octenisan at least twice during the five day course. Octenisan is gentle on the skin; it is soap free, colour and perfume free however, should skin becomes irritated or broken stop using and inform a doctor who prescribed the treatment. More information on this product is available on [www.schulke.co.uk](http://www.schulke.co.uk).



## NRIC ON FACEBOOK OH YES IT IS!

The National Resource for Infection Control (NRIC, [www.nric.org.uk](http://www.nric.org.uk)) is posting latest guidance and information on Infection Prevention and Control on Facebook. Sign on and keep updated.

## THINK COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR A COMMON CAUSE [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

In the early 1950s an estimated 50 million cases of smallpox, an acute contagious disease, occurred around the world each year. No effective treatment was ever developed, however this figure fell to around 10 - 15 million by 1967. 30 years ago the World Health Organisation declared 'that the world and its people had won the freedom from smallpox'. The cornerstone of this achievement was prevention by vaccination, breaking the chain of virus transmission around the world. It was an unprecedented achievement in public health history and demonstrated the power of collective action. Compared with the whole world, Worcestershire Primary Care and Mental Health Partnership Trusts are tiny and we have differing problematic microorganisms, but collectively, consistently using safe working practices, we are a strong team and can break the chain of infection, making a difference to patients and services.



### CLEANING SCHEDULES

Knowing what to clean and when you need to clean it, makes compliance much easier. Ensure all staff in your area know who is responsible for cleaning each item, how it is cleaned and when it is cleaned. All of this should be documented to provide assurance!



### HOW CLEAN ARE YOUR CAR WINDOWS?

A preliminary study, published in the *European Journal of Epidemiology*, has found an association between not using screen wash in wiper fluid and the risk of contracting Legionnaires' disease. Legionnaires' disease, caused by the legionella bacteria, is commonly linked to water systems such as air conditioning units, showers/fountains, where fine spray is given off. This study looked into the potential risk factors for drivers and passengers, given that most cases of sporadic, or isolated, Legionnaires' disease are rarely traced to a source but drivers featured disproportionately among cases of sporadic Legionella infection. Researchers interviewed 75 patients in England and Wales who had had community acquired Legionnaires' disease between July 2008 and March 2009 and compared them to a matched group of people who had not experienced a similar infection. The study found two exposures associated with vehicle use where there was an increased risk of Legionnaires' disease: driving through industrial areas and driving or being a passenger in a vehicle without screenwash in its wiper fluid. These associations had not been previously identified and further studies are now required to further explore and determine the role of screen wash in wiper fluid.

## 2010 TEACHING PLANNED

Training Planned for the remainder of the year includes a number of opportunities for different staff to update their knowledge:

- 👉 September 14 Community Mental Health Staff
- 👉 October 19th PCT Provider Community Staff
- 👉 November 4 Study Day for Community Hospital Staff (qualified and non qualified)
- 👉 November 10 Nursing Staff in GP setting

In addition to this, an accredited module is available through the University of Worcester and details on this and the above courses can be obtained from Gail Preece on 01905 681531.



## MALARIA—DON'T GET BITTEN

As you may be aware Cheryl Cole has recently contracted Malaria following a trip abroad. She is not the first famous casualty of malaria, nor is she likely to be the last, Malaria almost certainly contributed to the death of King Tutankhamun and when malarial mosquitoes bred beneath Lambeth Bridge, it carried off Oliver Cromwell. Malaria is transmitted through the bites of Anopheles mosquitoes, annually there are **850,000 deaths of which 91%** are in Africa. **85%** of deaths are in children under five. **35 countries** - 30 in Sub-Saharan Africa and five in Asia account for 98 per cent of global malaria deaths and **20%** of all childhood deaths in Africa are due to malaria. In total, **3.3 billion** people in 109 countries are at risk of malaria.



## STUDY DAY FOR HCA'S & SUPPORT WORKERS



Are you a healthcare assistant or support worker who would like to update on Infection Prevention and Control? A study day & product exhibition is planned for 28 September 2010 at Charles Hastings Education Centre. Hear about... Hand Hygiene, Cleaning Schedules and CQC requirements and understand the complexities of MRSA and Norovirus. The afternoon provides you with a choice of session including: Aseptic Techniques, Catheter Management, Waste Handling and Disposal, Use of Personal Protective Equipment or How to Manage Infections... Interested in attending? Contact 01386 502552 / 01905 681531.