



## PATIENT/FAMILY HAND HYGEINE AT TORONTO GRACE HEALTH CENTRE

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

**The dedicated staff at Toronto Grace are committed to providing the highest quality care for our patients, families and community in a safe and healthy environment.**

**Patient safety is an important priority at Toronto Grace.**

**We have many activities in place to help prevent and control infections. This includes our strong focus on hand hygiene also known as hand washing.**

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term care has instructed all Ontario hospitals to report on their hand hygiene activities.

On April 30, 2009 the results of this report will be released in the news.

It is important to know that healthcare providers **are** washing their hands.

This report is to inform you that all Ontario hospital staff are washing their hands in the right way at the right time.

Toronto Grace Health Centre's results are listed below and can be found on our internet at [www.torontograce.org](http://www.torontograce.org) .

### **Toronto Grace Results**

Times staff performed hand hygiene before patient and/or patient environment contact	73%
Times staff performed hand hygiene after patient and/or patient environment contact	61%

Each hospital in Ontario will have a different rate.

As each hospital is at various stages in their hand hygiene activities you cannot compare hospital results.

## What is Hand Hygiene?

- Hand hygiene – is using sanitizer or washing with soap and water.
- Hand cleaning is something we all do, but we need to do better - at the right time and the right way.
- **Every patient has the right to ask their care provider if they have washed their hands.**

## Why is Hand Hygiene So Important?

- Hand hygiene is a safety practice that belongs to EVERYONE in the hospital including patients, families, visitors and the care team.
- **Good hand washing is the most successful way to reduce and prevent healthcare-associated infections.**

## What are Healthcare-associated Infections?

- Sometimes when patients are admitted to hospitals they get an infection. These infections are called healthcare-associated infections

## When Should I Wash/Sanitize My Hands

- Sanitize/wash your hands before you enter the hospital, at the front door.
- Sanitize/wash your hands before entering a patient's room.
- Sanitize/wash your hands after you leave a patient's room.
- Sanitize/wash your hands when leaving the hospital.

## What if I have a Question?

- Questions on the hand hygiene practices at Toronto Grace can be asked of any staff member.
- Questions on the Toronto Grace Hand Hygiene program can be directed to Sarah Thomas, Director Patient Safety & Quality Improvement at ext 284
- Questions about the Hand Hygiene results can be directed to Alexis Dishaw, Director Communications & Strategic Planning at ext 211

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US  
IN OUR COMMITMENT TO A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOSPITAL**



The Salvation Army  
Toronto Grace Health Centre