

Hand hygiene auditing rules

Rules	Extended Definition
Moment 1	HH Moment 1 is recorded only once the HCW touches the patient.
Moment 2	HH Moment 2 is recorded <u>immediately</u> prior to any procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once Hand Hygiene has been performed, nothing in the patient's environment can be touched prior to the procedure starting.
Moment 3	HH Moment 3 is recorded <u>immediately</u> after a procedure of body fluid exposure risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing else should be touched prior to performing hand hygiene Touching the outside of a drain or drainage bag (eg urinary catheter, wound drain, chest tube drain, CSF drain), even when the circuit is not broken, is considered a body fluid exposure risk Can be recorded as a stand alone HH Moment when there is a body fluid exposure risk, but no patient contact - e.g. cleaning a spill of vomit, urine or faeces.
Moment 4	HH Moment 4 is recorded after touching the patient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touching the patient surroundings after touching the patient is recorded as a single Moment 4. If after Moment 3 there is touching of the patient surroundings before leaving the patient zone this is recorded as a Moment 4.
Moment 5	HH Moment 5 is recorded when the HCW leaves the patient zone after touching the patient's immediate surroundings and the patient has not been touched. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When multiple items in the patient surroundings are touched, only one Moment 5 is recorded.
Notes	
Before/After Moments	Generally for every 'before' Moment there should be an 'after' Moment recorded, unless the auditor does not witness the action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moment 1 is generally followed either a Moment 3 or Moment 4 Moment 2 is generally followed by Moment 3 Moment 5 is a stand alone Moment as there is no patient contact. There are a few situations when two "afters" may be recorded sequentially, however you will <u>never</u> have a M1 and a M2 in a row.
Action missed if not observed	The HCW must be observed to perform HH as they approach the patient. If HH is not observed it should be recorded as a "missed" action (i.e. HH not performed).
Only audit what you observe	No "before" Moment can be recorded if auditing commences after a HCW is already touching a patient, or in the process of performing a procedure. No "after" Moment can be recorded unless the Moment is observed.
Curtains	Patient bed curtains are outside the patient zone and are frequently contaminated. Touching the curtains is equivalent to leaving the patient zone. HH should be performed between touching the curtains and touching the patient, and vice versa.
Double Moments	Two moments for HH can occur simultaneously e.g. when moving directly from one patient to another without touching anything in between. In this situation, a single HH action covers the two moments for HH, as Moments 4 and 1 coincide. When moving from touching a patient to performing a procedure on that same patient Moments 4 and Moment 2 coincide. When auditing in either situation, both Moments should be recorded as individual Moments on the data collection form.
When not to record a Moment	HHC is audited by HCW compliance with the 5 Moments; it is not audited by HCW performing a HH action. HH actions not corresponding to a recognised Moment are not recorded, e.g. when a HCW walks into a patient's room, does HH and walks out without touching anything. In this case no Moment had occurred, despite HH taking place, so no Moment can be recorded.