

Allied Health

Guide to Conduct Hand Hygiene Reviews



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If you have questions about this guide or about hand hygiene reviews in general, you can email hand.hygiene@ahs.ca or contact your zone [Project Manager](#).



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Allied Health consists of many disciplines to assist in the rehabilitation, treatment and healthcare journey of patients. Allied Health disciplines may interact with patients in their rooms as well as in-group settings either on or off the unit.

Allied Health disciplines include:

- Audiology*
- Occupational Therapy (OT)*
- Physiotherapy (PT)*
- Therapy Assistants*
- Recreation Therapy (RT)*
- Child-Life Therapy*
- Speech Language Pathology*
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Spiritual Care
- Respiratory Therapy

Observation Point: The first seven disciplines* are recorded under the Rehabilitation category in the Clean Hands System.

The 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene can be observed depending on the care Allied Health disciplines are providing to the patient. The following are some examples that reviewers may observe; the list is not intended to be all-inclusive:

Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV)

- before direct patient contact

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- before contact with patient's equipment such as a wheelchair or walker
- before starting a group activity with a group of patients/residents/clients
- before practicing tub or toilet transfers with a patient

Moment 2 (BEF-ASP)

- before accessing clean supplies or linens such as a clean housecoat or gown off a linen cart
- before wound care, debridement, swallowing assessment
- before donning PPE including gloves

Moment 3 (AFT-BFL)

- after performing chest physiotherapy
- after wound care or debridement
- after swallowing assessment
- after doffing PPE to contact blood and/or body fluids

Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV)

These examples only apply if they are the last point of contact with the patient/patient environment

- after helping a patient back into their room or bed
- after completing a group activity with patients/residents/clients
- after touching a patient's equipment such as a wheelchair or walker
- after practicing tub or toilet transfers with a patient

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapy has many facets to its role in healthcare. Respiratory therapists play a vital part in the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory related issues in patients. They work in different areas of the hospital including inpatient units, Intensive Care Units, Emergency Departments, Operating Rooms (OR) and outpatient clinics.

Respiratory therapists are responsible for airway management including patient assessment, resuscitation, intubation, and tracheotomy care. They collect and run blood samples for blood gas analysis, assist with conscious sedation, start IV's and arterial lines, and assist with central lines and pulmonary artery catheters. They can also assess the need for and administer medication.

Observation Point: It is important during a crisis such as resuscitation, intubation or during a code that observations are not recorded.

Much like nursing, the care that respiratory therapists provide to patients will allow reviewers the

opportunities to observe the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene. The following are some examples that reviewers may observe; the list is not intended to be all-inclusive:

Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV)

- before direct patient contact
- before completing a respiratory assessment
- before listening to a patient's chest sounds
- before taking vitals such as oxygen saturation level by pulse oximetry
- before adjusting levels on ventilator, CPAP, or BiPAP

Moment 2 (BEF-ASP)

- before donning PPE, including gloves
- before suctioning
- before intubation
- before tracheotomy care
- before taking a blood sample for blood gas analysis
- before opening a vascular access system (e.g. inserting an arterial line, starting an IV, assisting with central lines)
- before preparing or giving medications

Moment 3 (AFT-BFL)

- after doffing PPE, including gloves, used to contact blood and/or body fluids
- after suctioning
- after extubating
- after tracheotomy care
- after any invasive procedure (i.e. starting an IV, assisting with a central line)
- after collecting a blood sample for blood gas analysis

Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV)

These examples only apply if they are the last point of contact with the patient/patient environment.

- after direct patient contact
- after completion of a respiratory assessment
- after contact with a ventilator, CPAP, or BiPAP machine
- after taking patient vitals

Allied Health - Scenario 1

A speech language pathologist (SLP) performs hand hygiene upon entering a patient's room, greets the patient without contact and indicates that they will be performing a swallowing assessment. Before starting, the SLP places the clean supplies on the patient's bedside table and moves the table closer to the patient. The SLP performs hand hygiene, dons gloves, and performs the assessment using clean supplies from their kit. Once completed, the SLP discards the used supplies, removes gloves, performs hand hygiene, and leaves the patient room.



HCP – Rehabilitation (SLP)

Moment 1 (wash/ABHR); Moment 2 (wash/ABHR), gloves; Moment 3 (wash/ABHR), gloves;
Moment 4 (wash/ABHR)

Rationale:

- Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) is compliant when the SLP performs hand hygiene on entry to the room before making contact with the patient's bedside table; to move it after setting the supplies down.
- Moment 2 (BEF-ASP) is recorded as compliant when the SLP dons the gloves, accesses the clean supplies in the kit, and begins to perform the swallowing assessment.
- Moment 3 (AFT-BFL) is recorded as compliant after the SLP completes the swallowing assessment and doffs their gloves.
- Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant as the swallowing assessment is the last point of contact the SLP has with the patient or the patient's environment. This is a combined moment with Moment 3 (AFT-BFL) above (see Section 3.4 Combined Moments).

Allied Health - Scenario 2

A patient is brought to the Rehabilitation Department for a mobility assessment. An occupational therapist (OT) performs hand hygiene and shakes the patient's hand. The OT discusses the patient's ability to transfer in and out of the tub, on and off the toilet and prepare meals at home. The OT evaluates the patient's ability to get in and out of the bathtub, on, and off the toilet. The OT then performs hand hygiene before returning to the workstation to chart.



HCP – Rehabilitation (OT)

Moment 1 (wash/ABHR); Moment 4 (wash/ABHR)

Rationale:

- Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the OT makes contact with the patient to shake hands.
- Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the OT performs hand hygiene after leaving the patient's environment and making contact with the workstation (healthcare environment).

Allied Health - Scenario 3

A physiotherapist (PT) and therapy assistant perform hand hygiene before entering the patient room and introduce themselves. The PT puts a transfer belt around the patient and helps the patient to stand. Both the PT and therapy assistant help to support the patient as they walk with the patient around the unit. They help the patient back into bed. Both staff performs hand hygiene as they exit the patient's room to return to the nursing station to chart.



HCP – Rehabilitation (PT)

Moment 1 (wash/ABHR); Moment 4 (wash/ABHR)

HCP – Rehabilitation (Therapy Assistant)

Moment 1 (wash/ABHR); Moment 4 (wash/ABHR)

Rationale:

Physiotherapist

- Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the PT performs hand hygiene before placing the transfer belt on the patient.
- Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the PT performs hand hygiene when leaving the patient's environment before charting.

Therapy Assistant

- Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the therapy assistant performs hand hygiene before helping the patient walk around the unit.
- Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the therapy assistant performs hand hygiene when leaving the patient's environment before charting.

Allied Health - Scenario 4

A recreation therapist (RT) gathers a group of residents to do a group activity using a shared ball. The residents and the RT perform hand hygiene before starting the activity. During the activity, the RT does not have any contact with the residents, only the ball. Once the activity is complete, the RT and the residents perform hand hygiene and the RT places the cleaned ball back in the supply cupboard.



HCP – Rehabilitation (RT)

Moment 1 (wash/ABHR); Moment 4 (wash/ABHR)

Rationale:

- Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the RT performs hand hygiene before the activity.
- Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) is recorded as compliant when the RT performs hand hygiene after the group activity and makes contact with the supply cupboard (healthcare environment).

Exploring Possibilities:

- If the RT made contact with a resident during the activity, additional hand hygiene moments would apply (i.e. Moment 1 (BEF-PAT/ENV) and Moment 4 (AFT-PAT/ENV) before resuming the group activity).

Take Away Message:

- Residents/patients are encouraged to perform hand hygiene before a group activity. Their hand hygiene moments are not included in the hand hygiene review process.