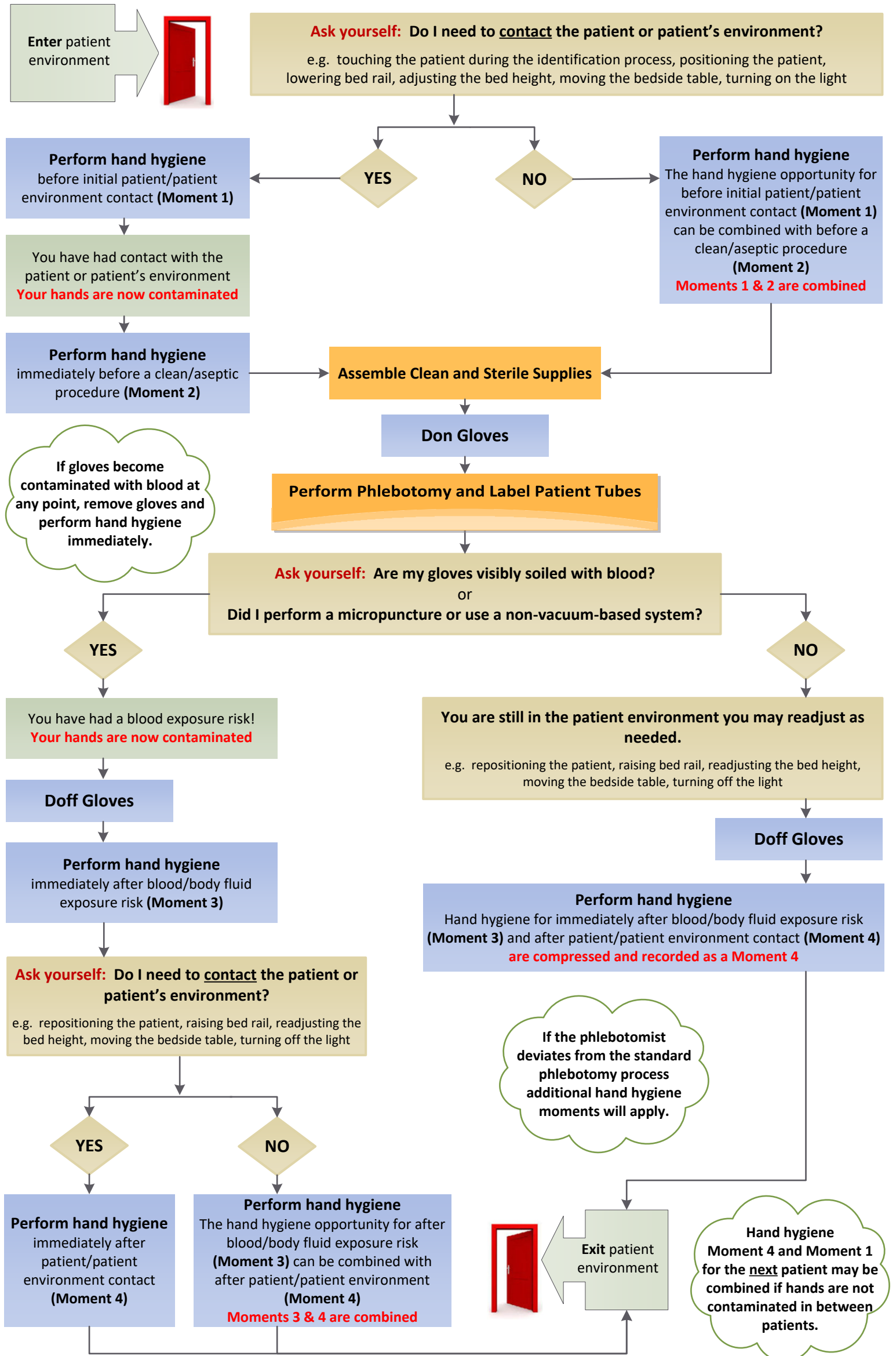


## Hand Hygiene for Phlebotomists - Patient Care Settings



## Definitions

### Aseptic Procedure

An aseptic procedure is defined as the purposeful prevention of transfer of microorganisms from the patient's body surface to a normally sterile body site. Such practices are used when performing procedures that expose the patient's normally sterile sites (e.g., intravascular system, spinal canal, subdural space, urinary tract) in such a manner as to keep them free from microorganisms. *(Refer to AHS Hand Hygiene Policy)*

A phlebotomy or micropuncture is an aseptic procedure (Moment 2). **The phlebotomist must perform hand hygiene immediately before performing an aseptic procedure.**

A phlebotomy or micropuncture presents the health care provider with a risk of exposure to blood or body fluids (Moment 3).

### Combined Moment

Hand hygiene moments may be combined if the health care provider's hands do not become contaminated after completing a task requiring hand hygiene and immediately before beginning the next task requiring hand hygiene. *(Refer to page 16 Guide to Conduct Hand Hygiene Reviews)*

### Compressed Moment

Hand hygiene moments may be compressed for specific procedures with Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Program approval. A compressed moment is when two hand hygiene moments are recorded as a single moment (i.e. phlebotomy).

### Patient's Environment

A patient's environment is unique and will be different depending on the healthcare setting.

For example:

- in a single-room, the patient environment is the entire room including any doorknobs located within the room
- in a multi-bed room, the patient environment is the area inside the patient curtain
- in ambulatory care, the patient environment is the cubicle or chair space
- **Note:** curtains are to be considered part of the healthcare environment in all settings. Doorknobs in multi-patient rooms and ambulatory care settings are also considered healthcare environment *(Refer to Guide to Conduct Hand Hygiene Reviews, Section 3.5 Environments )*
- in a nursery or neonatal setting, the patient environment includes the bassinette, incubator, and any equipment dedicated to that neonatal patient

Adapted from PIDAC, 2014



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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](mailto:hand.hygiene@ahs.ca) or contact your zone [Project Manager](#).

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