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Home Health & Hospice Aides: Preventing and Controlling Infections When Providing Personal Care in the Home

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HOME HEALTH
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Objectives

At the conclusion of this teleclass, the participant will be able to:

- Recognize common problems and infection control breaches when providing personal care in the home setting.
- Describe infection prevention and control strategies to protect both the aides and the patients to prevent organisms' transmission when providing personal care in the home.
- Implement best practice recommendations when providing personal care and support services.

“Challenges” of Providing Care in the Home Care Setting

- Lack of control over the home environment:
 - Lack of general cleanliness
 - Presence of pests
 - Presence of pets & excrement



Infection Prevention and Control: Aides and Bed Bathing Practices

- Pre-packaged, pre-moistened, rinse-free disposable washcloths
- Washcloth(s) with tap water
- Human factor considerations

Aides and Bathing Technique: Reducing the Risk of Infection

- Supplies needed
- Bathing technique
- Peri-care
- Indwelling catheter management
- Disposal of bath water

Bath Basin Management in the Home

- Bath basin contamination
- Cleaning and drying
- Disinfecting
- Storage



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2016). Reducing the risk of infection when using a bath basin. Home Healthcare Now, 34(6), 339.

Linen and Laundry Management in the Home

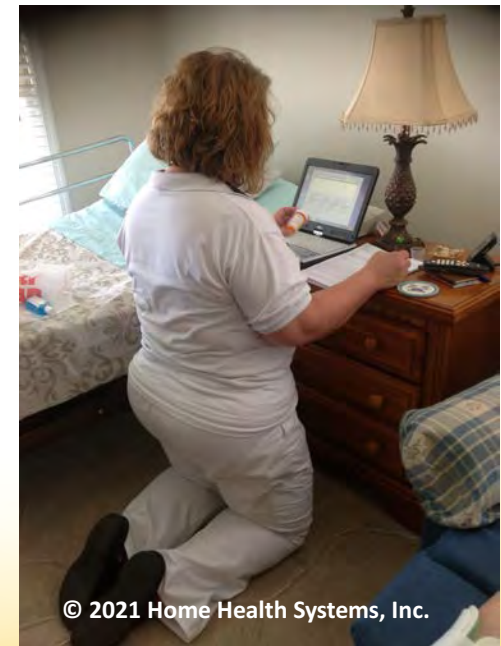
- Linen storage
- Soiled linen placement & management
- Personal protective equipment
- Hand hygiene
- Laundry management



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Bathing Practices and Clothing Contamination

- Risk level for each type of bath
- Preventing cross-contamination via:
 - Scrubs/uniform/street clothes
 - Name tags, identification badges and lanyards



Source: McGoldrick, M. (2014). Bare below the elbows: Preventing cross-contamination via the staff's attire. *Home Healthcare Nurse*, 32(7), 440-441.

Performing Hand Hygiene: Performing When Indicated

Before and after
having direct
contact with
patient

Before donning
PPE

Before performing
an aseptic
procedure

After contact with
patient's
immediate
environment

After contact with
blood, body fluids,
or contaminated
surfaces

After removing
PPE

Your Moments for **Hand Hygiene** Health care in a residential home



Hand Hygiene Technique: During and After Personal Care

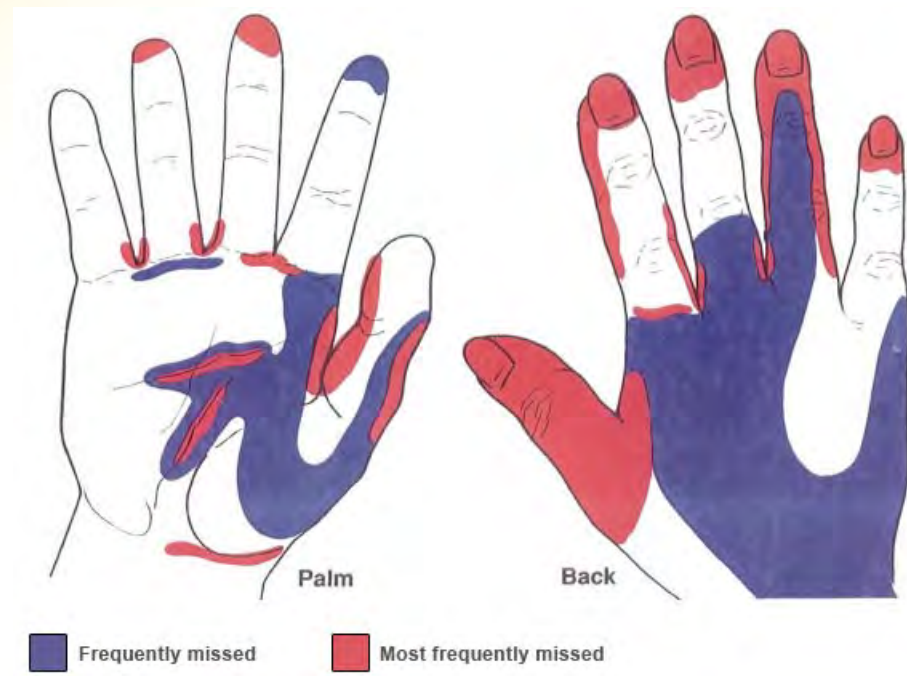
- Wet gloves with bathing
- Soap and water:
 - Rub hands together vigorously for a minimum of 20 seconds covering all surfaces
 - Hand drying
 - Use towel to turn off faucet/tap
- Alcohol-based hand hygiene product:
 - Cover all surfaces of hands & fingers, until hands are dry



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Source: McGoldrick, M. (2017). Hand hygiene in the home setting: Technique matters. *Home Healthcare Now*, 35(9), 454-455.

Hand Hygiene Technique: Frequently Missed Locations



Courtesy of Deb Group: Used with permission.

Hand Hygiene: Other Considerations

- Rings
- Jewelry
- Nail polish
- Artificial nails
- Nail tip length



Hand Hygiene Product Usage and Storage

- Using the patient's supplies
- Soap
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer:
 - Storage location
 - Expiration dating
 - When not to use



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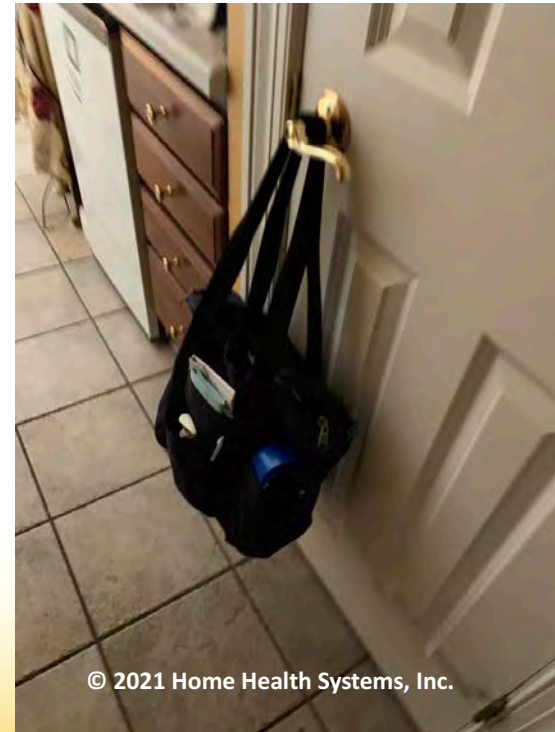
“Bag Technique”: Best Practices for the Aide

- When not to bring in the home
- Hand hygiene
- Bag placement
- Routine sanitizing
- Management of equipment and supplies

Source: McGoldrick, M. (2021). Cleaning and Disinfection.
Home Care Infection Prevention and Control Program.

McGoldrick, M. (2019). Nursing bags manufactured with embedded antimicrobials.
Home Healthcare Now, 37(3), 178-179;

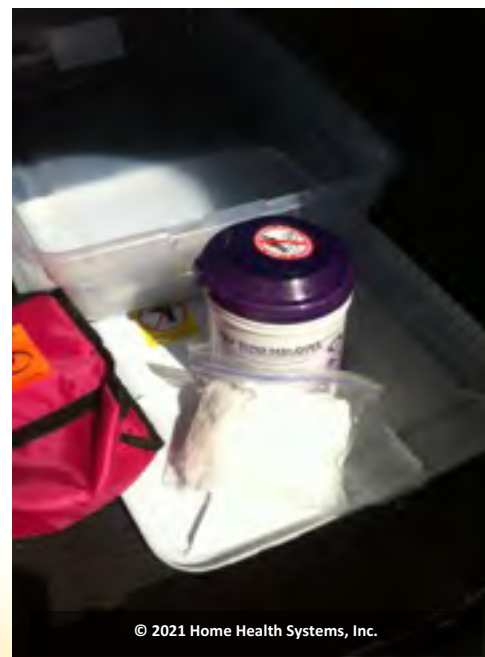
McGoldrick, M. (2017). Best practices for home care “bag technique” and
the use of surface barriers. *Home Healthcare Now, 35(9), 478-484.*



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Cleaning and Disinfection

- Product selected:
 - EPA List N
 - Antiseptic vs. disinfectant
- Storage:
 - Repackaging
 - Labeling
 - Closure
 - Temperature
- Personal protective equipment
- Contact time
- First aid



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Source: McGoldrick, M. (2016). Protecting the staff when using disinfectants in the home. *Home Healthcare Now*, 34(9), 523.

Aide Documentation: Best Practices for Device Management

- Paper documentation
- Electronic visit verification
 - Patient's skin contamination
 - Equipment contamination
- Device management
 - Disinfection



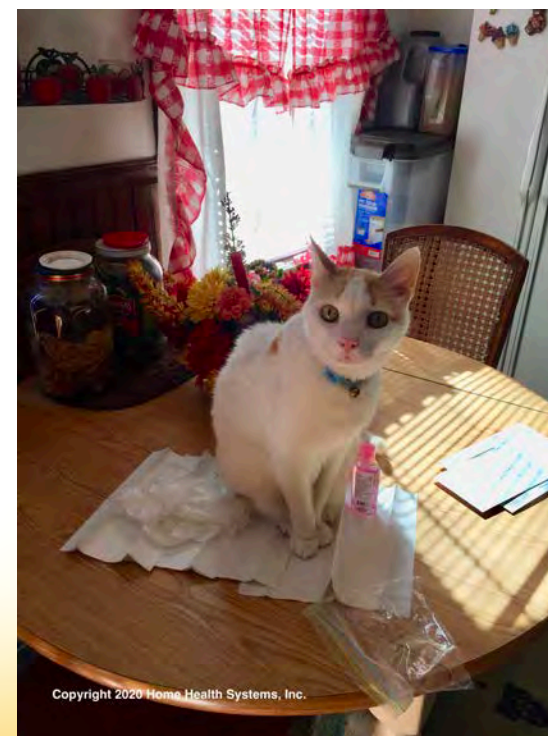
Source: McGoldrick, M. (2019). Electronic visit verification: Infection prevention breaches when capturing the patient's signature. *Home Healthcare Now*, 37(6), 260-261.

Risk of Sharps Injuries

- Sharps, often without engineered SI protections
- Improperly disposed of sharps
- Assisting with medical procedures

Source: Brouillette, N. M., Quinn, M. M., Kriebel, D., Markkanen, P. K., Galligan, C. J., Sama, S. R., ... & Davis, L. (2017). Risk of sharps injuries among home care aides: results of the Safe Home Care survey. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 45(4), 377-383.

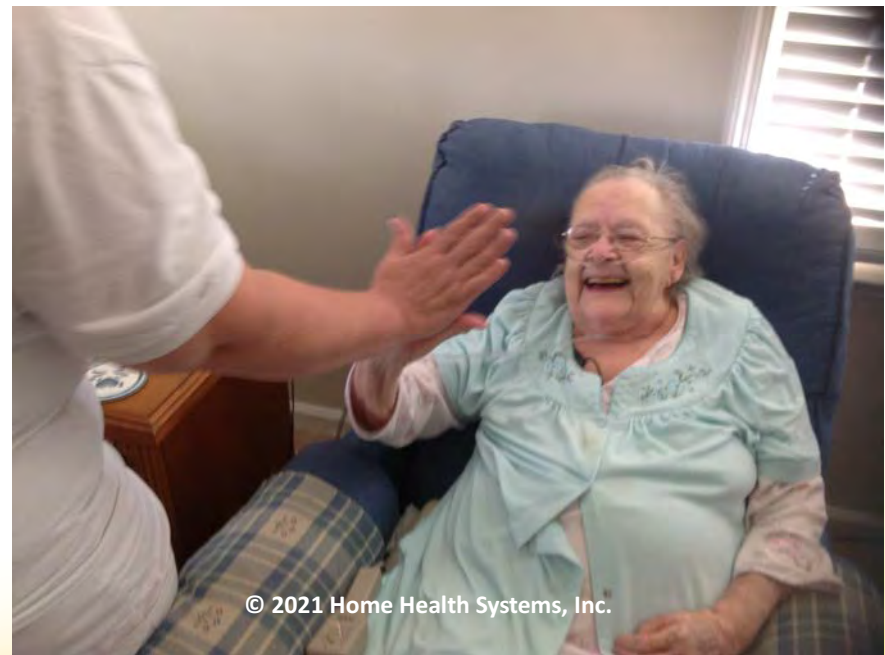
Companion Animals in the Home Setting



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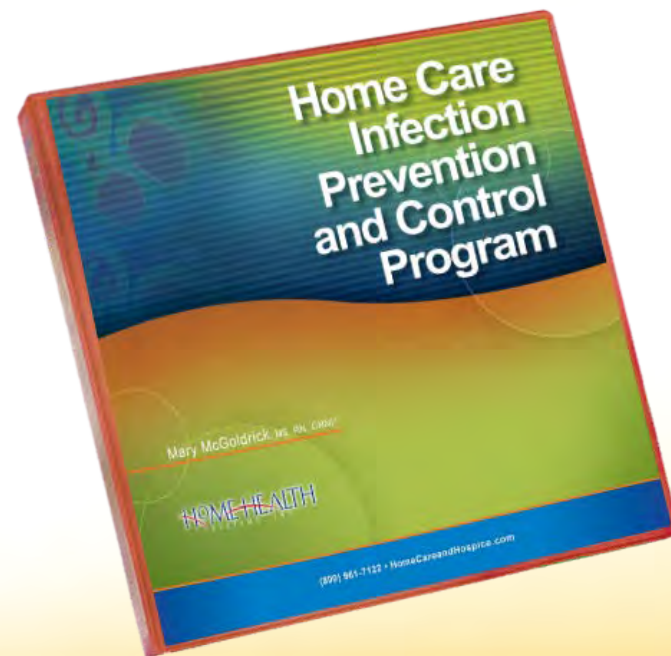
Aide Services: Preventing and Controlling Infections When Providing Personal Care in the Home

- Common problems and infection control breaches when providing personal care in the home setting.
- Infection prevention and control strategies to protect both the aides and the patients and prevent organisms' transmission when providing personal care in the home.
- Best practice recommendations when providing personal care and support services.



Questions?

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Speaker: **Dr. Lynne Schulster**

September 16, 2021

(FREE Teleclass)

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Speaker: **Prof. Allison McGeer**, Sinai Health System, University of Toronto

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