



HAND HYGIENE NUMBER ONE AT BETHESDA HEALTH CARE

5 May 2015 is the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Hand Hygiene Day. This year there is a call to action in support of the WHO's **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** campaign, launched in 2009 and to commemorate ten years of the WHO Clean Care is Safer Care programme 2005-2015.

At Bethesda Health Care, hand hygiene is one of the key components in the infection prevention and control program. The program is central to the hospital's commitment to providing high quality health care for patients.

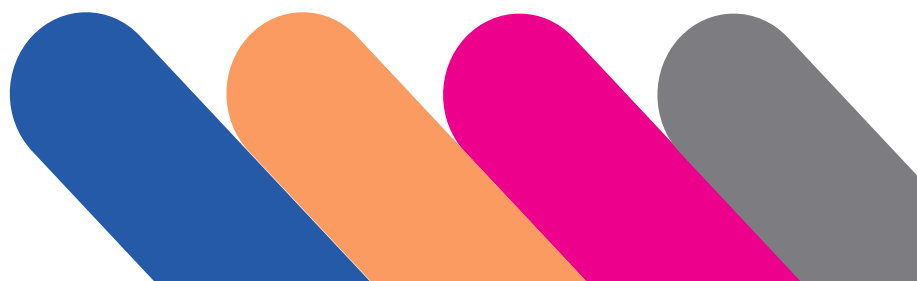
Bethesda Health Care will be celebrating this important day through staff education, and visitor information about hand hygiene. They will also be spreading the message of **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** - WHO's global annual call to action for health workers through their networks and social media.

Libby Oakes, Manager Infection Prevention and Control at Bethesda Health Care said that 'our staff are committed to hand hygiene, and we continue to work on staff education, and with our external suppliers to ensure that the products that we use on a daily basis are the best for our patients, staff, doctors and visitors to the hospital'

Bethesda Health Care is continually reevaluating hand hygiene products and the program. They are currently trialing a new hand hygiene product- an alcohol based hand rub. This product is a foam rather than in liquid form and has so far been popular amongst the staff who are using it.

The Claremont based hospital's strong commitment to hand hygiene commenced in 2009, when they implemented their hand hygiene project based on the recommendations of WHO and Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA). This included education and training on the "5 moments of hand hygiene" product placement, hand hygiene auditing and feedback.

This project was so successful that Bethesda Health Care was the winner of the Asia Pacific Hand Hygiene Excellence Award 2012/2013.



Media Release

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Bethesda
health care

For more information about the WHO International Hand Hygiene Day, please visit
<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/>

Bethesda Health Care is an independent 88-bed award-winning hospital in Claremont who has been providing care and service to the Western Australian community for more than 70 years.

www.bethesda.asn.au

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