

Up, Up and Away

Together, let's send infections Up, Up and Away!

Up, Up and Away is an internal campaign that supports employees' efforts to apply consistent standards of infection prevention across inpatient and procedural areas. It focuses on decreasing potential patient contamination and optimizing hand hygiene, specifically keeping hair **up**, sleeves **up** and nail polish, jewelry, watches, phones, etc., **away** to decrease the spread of infections.



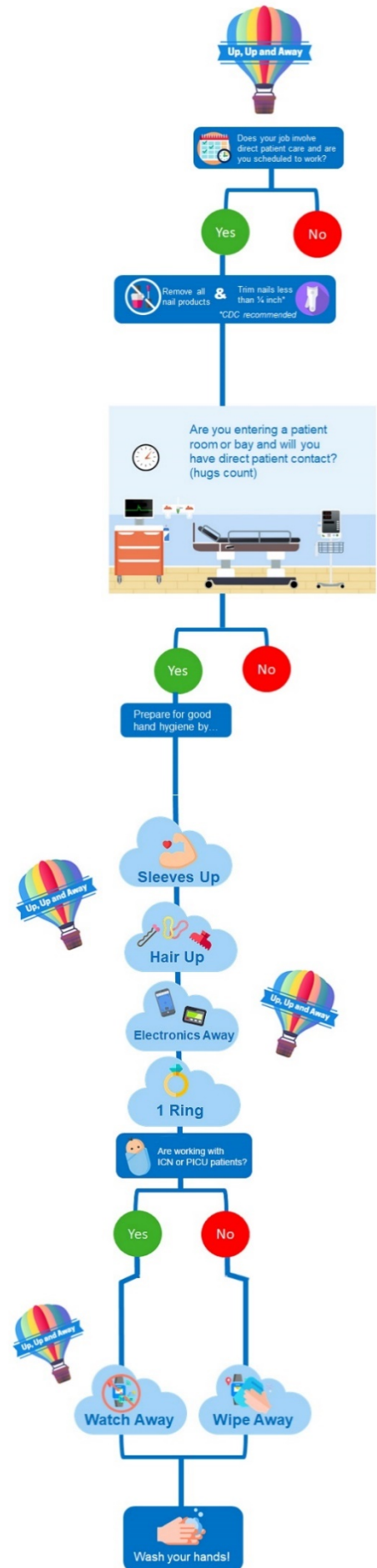
Click the image above to watch the video!

Why the need?

Over the last year, Children's Mercy has experienced an increase in central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs), surgical site infections (SSIs), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) and other nosocomial infections, as well as a decrease in compliance with hand hygiene and personal appearance policies. These infections hurt our patients and contribute to extended hospital stays, brain injury, morbidity and mortality.

Front-line teams acknowledged the need to get "back to the basics" to align with two of CM's organizational goals: Patient Quality and Safety and Patient and Family Experience.

The following is a high-level overview of the impacted areas, and the actions employees should take to combat infections.



In-scope locations

Employees entering the patient room/bay with **intent** to provide direct patient care (touch patient or patient equipment).

- PICU
- ICN
- ED
- Laboratory-IP and Ambulatory
- Med/Surg
- Observation
- PAT
- Peri-Op
- Pharmacy
- PT/OT – anyone on IP service and clinic
- Radiology
- Volunteers in Patient and Family Support Services
- Psychosocial Services
 - Child Life
 - Patient activity coordinators
 - Music Therapy
 - School teachers
 - Project Rise
 - Art therapy
- Ambulatory (defined areas)
 - Beacon
 - GIP
 - GI Clinic
 - Pulmonology/ CF
 - Infusion
 - Dialysis
 - Hem/OC
 - Burn
 - Cardiology

Before you are scheduled to work:

Natural nails

- Tips less than one-fourth inch long. Nail polish and artificial nails are not permitted (including, but not limited to: nail polish, acrylic, gel/shellac, tips, bondings, wraps, decals, dipping, powder or any other products/applications that create a barrier to the nail).

Entering the patient room/bay with intent to provide direct patient care (touch patient or patient equipment):

Sleeves up

- Sleeves should be pulled to the elbow in intensive care areas (PICU, ICN)
- Non-intensive care areas: Sleeves should be pulled above the wrist.

Hair up

- Hair (including facial hair) that potentially obstructs vision and/or potentially touches the patient must be secured away from face and pulled back and up/off the shoulders

Papers, phones, other devices away

- Avoid using handheld electronic devices while in the patient room (refer to standard work).
- If an electronic device is necessary to use while in the patient room, the clinician needs to perform hand hygiene, then touch the electronic device, put away the electronic device and then perform hand hygiene again before touching anything in the patient zone.
- If you need to urgently respond to an electronic device and don't have time to perform hand hygiene before touching the device, the device needs to be sanitized before putting it away and hand hygiene then needs to be performed before touching anything else.

Jewelry, watches away

- One ring total (not one ring per hand). Example: engagement and wedding ring soldered together.)
- No bracelets or other wrist jewelry.
- No wrist watches (including step counter) in intensive care areas (PICU, ICN).
- Non-intensive care areas: If watches are worn, clean at the beginning of shift.

Together, we can send infections Up, Up and Away. Follow the new hand hygiene standards and encourage your colleagues to do so, too. If you see a standard not being followed, respectively say something!

Content Owner [Tess Polshak](#)

Last updated on Today at 3:55 p.m.