Your 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene

1. BEFORE INITIAL PATIENT / PATIENT ENVIRONMENT CONTACT
   WHEN? Clean your hands when entering:
   • before touching patient or
   • before touching any object or furniture in the patient’s environment
   WHY? To protect the patient/patient environment from harmful germs carried on your hands

2. BEFORE ASEPTIC PROCEDURE
   WHEN? Clean your hands immediately before any aseptic procedure
   WHY? To protect the patient against harmful germs, including the patient’s own germs, entering his or her body

3. AFTER BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK
   WHEN? Clean your hands immediately after an exposure risk to body fluids (and after glove removal)
   WHY? To protect yourself and the health care environment from harmful patient germs

4. AFTER PATIENT / PATIENT ENVIRONMENT CONTACT
   WHEN? Clean your hands when leaving:
   • after touching patient or
   • after touching any object or furniture in the patient’s environment
   WHY? To protect yourself and the health care environment from harmful patient germs

Adapted from WHO poster “Your 5 moments for Hand Hygiene,” 2006.

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