NQF Safe Practice #19: Hand Hygiene

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NQF#</th>
<th>Not NQF Endorsed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developer</td>
<td>The Leapfrog Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Source</td>
<td>Leapfrog Hospital Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Statement</td>
<td>Comply with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hand Hygiene Guidelines.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Rationale:** Many healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are caused by pathogens transmitted from one patient to another via the contaminated hands of health care workers. The CDC estimates that approximately 2 million patients acquire an HAI, and nearly 90,000 patients die as a result, annually. Hand hygiene is one of the most important and effective interventions in preventing the transmission of pathogens in health care facilities. However, a compliance rate of less than 50% was observed in studies. Proper hand hygiene greatly improves the preventability of many HAIs.

**Evidence for Rationale:**

**Impact:**
- Affects large number of patients.

**Opportunity:**
- Opportunity for improvement exists, based on the coefficient of variation for the measure.

**Evidence:**
- Supported by experimental and clinical studies and strong theoretical rationale.

**Citations for Evidence:**

NQF Safe practices for better healthcare-2010 update: A consensus report