



Title	Clinical Wash Hand Basins
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Introduction

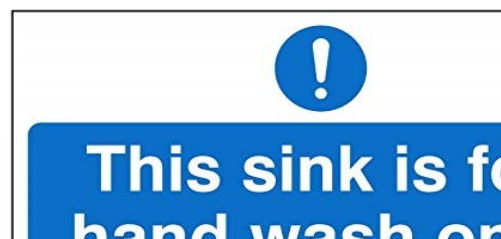
Hand hygiene is an important practice in reducing the transmission of infectious agents which cause healthcare associated infections (National Infection Prevention and Control Manual 2016). In order to decontaminate hands dedicated clinical wash hand basins (CWHB) must be available in all clinical areas.

Inappropriate use of CWHBs increases the risk of introducing potentially harmful micro-organisms into the taps, pipe work and drains. The CWHB itself may then become a potential source of infection.

Clinical Wash Hand Basins

The following points are essential to ensure that CWHBs are safe to enable staff to effectively perform hand hygiene:

- CWHBs are identified by signage and are for the purpose of hand washing only; CWHBs should not be used for any other reason
- CWHB and surrounding area must be clean, free of clutter and must be easily accessible
- Patient wash bowls should not be filled from CWHBs; water should be obtained from patient wash room or clean utility area. Water for cleaning should also be obtained from appropriate location, not CWHB.
- Do not store patient wash cloths or toiletries on CWHB or taps
- CWHBs should not have plugs and should not be plugged with any other material e.g. paper hand towels
- Do not dispose of any body fluids at the CWHB – use the dirty utility area. Water used for washing patients may be disposed of in the toilet provided appropriate personal protective equipment is used and any splash risk is minimised



- Do not wash any patient equipment in the CWHB. Dentures should be cleaned under running water in patient wash room sink, these are not CWHBs
- Do not use CWHB for storing any equipment awaiting decontamination e.g. cup holders, beakers
- Do not dispose of any used environmental cleaning fluids at CWHB e.g. soapy water or Tristel Fuse, these should be disposed of in the domestic services room or sluice
- Do not dispose of any drinking fluids in the CWHB; return to ward kitchen area and dispose of in kitchen sink
- Do not dispose of any IV fluids or drugs in the CWHB; these should be disposed of via the correct waste stream
- Do not use water from the CWHB for drinking; this should be obtained from the ward kitchen area
- Identify and report any problems with CWHBs promptly to the relevant department e.g. slow drainage or water flow to Estates Department or problems with cleanliness or lime scale build up to Facilities Department

Additionally, all staff should ensure they are familiar with the World Health Organisation 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene and the correct hand washing technique.

References

[\(2016\) National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(Health Protection Scotland\) Chapter 1 Standard Infection Control Precautions](#)

[NHS Borders Zero Tolerance Hand Hygiene Policy](#)

[WHO My 5 moments for Hand Hygiene](#)

[NHS Borders Dress Code, Uniform & Laundering Policy](#)