

Meeting The Leapfrog Group's New Hand Hygiene Standards

5 Ways Safety Technology Supports Performance Improvement and Patient Safety



COVID-19 has accelerated patients' active involvement in choosing their healthcare provider, making it ever-more important for hospitals to demonstrate the steps they are taking to ensure the safety of patients, staff, and the broader community. Hospital quality rating systems, such as The Leapfrog Group, that report on overall hospital safety performance, play a major role in helping patients make informed, confident decisions.

Pushing the Industry Toward Safer, More Transparent Care

Hand Hygiene is widely accepted as an age-old challenge in healthcare and hospital settings. While situational barriers are often identified as reasons for poor hand hygiene, organizations that achieve improvement, generally place a distinct focus on driving positive, lasting behavior change and developing a strong safety culture.



Hand Hygiene is the #1 way to reduce hospital acquired infection rates, including COVID-19.

Less than 1/2 the average amount healthcare providers clean their hands as often as required, according to the CDC.

To reverse this trend, hospitals are investing in advanced safety technologies, including Electronic Hand Hygiene Monitoring solutions that work behind the scenes to capture compliance data and drive best practices for behavior change - without disrupting workflow or the patient experience.

How Adopting a Multi-Modal Approach to Hand Hygiene Can Boost Hospital Safety Performance

The Leapfrog Group's 2021 Hospital Survey officially emphasizes updated standards for hand hygiene best practices.

The questions and scoring algorithm encourage a multi-modal approach and emphasize the importance of monitoring and feedback, which are both required in order to meet Leapfrog's standard for hand hygiene practices including in the following domains.



Feedback 2

Implement an effective way to offer individual feedback at the unit level to create action plans, justify compensation adjustments based on performance data, and provide regular compliance trend updates to senior leadership.



Monitoring 1

Capture at least 200 hand hygiene opportunities, per unit, per month.



Culture 3

Build a culture of safety where hospital leadership, including the CEO, CMO, and CNO, can demonstrate their commitment to support hand hygiene improvement to clinical staff.



Training and Education 4

Incorporate 6 key topics in initial and annual hand hygiene training that require staff to demonstrate full understanding of standards, including when to use soap vs. sanitizer and how hand hygiene compliance monitoring is conducted.



Infrastructure 5

Ensure a process is in place to audit levels of soap and sanitizer and ensure all rooms or bed spaces in patient care units have sanitizer accessible.

Reporting on these standards was optional in 2020 on account of COVID-19. The new standards will be enforced in The 2021 Hospital Survey, which begins on April 1st, 2021 and ends on July 31, 2021. Pending any proposed changes, these standards will also be in effect for the November Hospital Survey and Spring 2022 Safety Grades.

Source: <https://www.leapfroggroup.org>

Making the Grade

New best practices for good hand hygiene make it virtually impossible for expensive manual monitoring methods to meet compliance standards.



80%

Studies point to 80% hand hygiene compliance as being a critical threshold for reducing infections.

MANUAL OBSERVATIONS

<1%

Manual, labor-intensive observation methods, coupled with understaffed infection prevention teams, typically only allows hospitals to capture 100-1,000 observations per month for the entire facility, representing less than 1% of total hygiene opportunities.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

100x

Electronic hand hygiene monitoring enables a mid-size hospital to monitor compliance for all shifts, including nights and weekends, capturing 100x more opportunities each month than required by the Leapfrog Group's monitoring domain.

75%

Hospitals that adopt SwipeSense electronic hand hygiene monitoring have seen up to a 75% reduction in HAIs in one year.

Accelerating Recovery

COVID-19 has revealed shortcomings in safety preparedness within the four walls of a hospital. As organizations reflect on lessons learned during the pandemic, there is an opportunity to adopt new solutions to improve patient outcomes, reduce costs and waste, and meet industry safety standards.



While progress towards a pre-pandemic system will take time, safety technology is proving to be a critical component for hospitals to effectively:

Recognize ROI more quickly

Organizations that previously viewed investments in safety technology as aspirational, are now focused on proactively allocating funds to adopt effective platform solutions.

Restore patient confidence

Patients' risk-averse mindset is expected to continue, emphasizing the importance of rebuilding trust through clear communication about a facility's commitment to the safety of patients, staff, and the community.

Lead the way in driving recovery

Those that can demonstrate meaningful steps to advance hospital safety will be equipped to accelerate financial, clinical, and reputational recovery.

Set the Standard for Hospital Safety

Safety technology plays a key role in establishing a strong culture of safety. In addition to monitoring and improving hand hygiene compliance, learn how safety technology can also impact fall reduction, workflow efficiencies, the patient experience, and other critical safety activities

Visit www.swipesense.com to learn more.

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