



MEDEC

CANADA'S MEDICAL DEVICE TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES
LES SOCIÉTÉS CANADIENNES DE TECHNOLOGIE DES
DISPOSITIFS MÉDICAUX

News Release

For Immediate Release

MEDEC supports WHO's patient safety initiative

(May 7, 2009) Practising good hand hygiene is one of the simplest ways to prevent the spread of infections and germs, yet few do it. This week, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global hand hygiene awareness initiative “*Save Lives: Clean Your Hands,*” to help save lives by reducing healthcare related infections (HCAI) in healthcare settings. MEDEC (Canada's Medical Technology Companies) is in full support of this initiative and urge healthcare providers, patients and visitors to healthcare settings to practice good hand hygiene to ensure patient safety and reduce the spread of infections and diseases. All healthcare stakeholders have a responsibility to not only identify patient safety risks, but more importantly to drive solutions and better outcome. Handwashing is often times the best solution to reducing the transfer of infections and to ensure patient safety in healthcare environments.

MEDEC commends the recent efforts by Ontario Hospitals and the government to make patient safety a priority by reporting publicly on patient safety indicators including *hand hygiene compliance rates*.

Over the years, our medical technology members have worked at promoting patient safety, by developing and enhancing access to new technologies that enhance the patient safety profile. We urge our partners in government to support our patient safety efforts by:

- Providing funding for innovative medical devices which improve patient safety profiles
- Maintaining a regulatory environment that is geared toward ensuring the safety of new medical technologies without being burdensome towards the Canadian licensing of such new healthcare technologies
- Banning the practice of reusing single use medical devices. This means using medical technology according to its label and only reprocessing medical technology designed to be reprocessed and with quality systems in place.

Read the MEDEC position paper on patient safety here:

http://www.medec.org/files/images/Patient_Safety-english_lowres_.pdf

View patient safety indicators from the Ontario Ministry of Health Site:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/patient_safety/public/ps_pub.html

Read more on the WHO initiative here:

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/>

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/tools/en/index.html>

Read more about handwashing here:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/pubhealth/handwashing/handwashing_mn.html

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