Overview of Infection Control

Infection Prevention and Control for Computers in Patient Care Areas
Introduction

• Computer hardware, especially keyboards, can be contaminated with microorganisms when touched by contaminated hands.
Invaders

• Microorganisms such as:
  • *Clostridium difficile* can survive on inanimate surfaces for months.
  • Gram positive bacteria, including vancomycin-resistant *enterococcus* (VRE) and methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) can survive days to months on dry surfaces.
  • Many gram-negative species, such as *E.coli* and *P.Aeruginosa* can also survive for months on equipment.
Hand Hygiene

• Computer access without proper hand hygiene can deposit organism on the keyboard for the next provider.
• Keyboards can become significant reservoirs for organisms because of the increased used of computers in the patient care areas.
• Hand hygiene is critically important after touching surfaces that may be contaminated and before contact with another patient or with the environment.
Cleaning Guidelines

• Use alcohol base hand sanitizer for non-soiled hands; soap and water for soiled hands prior to computer use, and prior to touching patients.
• No gloves should be worn during computer use.
• Computer on Wheels (COWS) must be cleaned before moving to another patient room.
• Clean/disinfect computer surfaces including keyboards using germicidal wipe containing a hospital disinfectant by wiping surface with friction for five seconds once a day and when soiled.
Conclusion

- While technology can help to provide better and safer patient care, hardware used can be involved in the transmission of infection between staff and patients.
- To help prevent the spread of infection, maintain good hand hygiene and disinfect keyboards with germicidal wipe using five second friction daily or when soiled.
Questions?