



# 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 use 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?