Welcome to the first edition of Network 8’s Healthcare Associated Infection Learning and Action Network (HAI LAN) Patient Activity. You will receive more patient activities throughout the year, and these activities will help you learn ways to fight the risk of infection.

Meet George the Germ!

When Mr. John Doe came to dialysis on May 18, he forgot to wash his access arm before treatment. Mr. Doe did not know that George the Germ was sitting on his arm. It was a busy morning in the dialysis facility, and three more patients, besides Mr. Doe, were waiting to be put on dialysis. The staff person (Pam) washed her hands and put gloves on and stuck Mr. Doe. While Pam was sticking Mr. Doe, George the Germ spread onto Pam’s hand, above her glove. After Pam finished putting Mr. Doe on the machine, she changed her gloves, but did not wash her hands before she went to stick Ms. Jane Smith. As she was sticking Ms. Smith, George the Germ spread onto Ms. Smith’s access arm.

Stay tuned to continue to follow George’s story in the next HAI LAN patient activity.

Why Are Infections and Germs “Bad”?

- Infections are the second leading cause of death among dialysis patients.
- Dialysis patients are at a higher risk for infections because they have a weaker immune system, which is the system that fights off infections.
- Dialysis patients are at a high risk for infection because they require a catheter, or needles placed in their access, to start their dialysis treatment.

What Can I Do to Lower My Risk of Infection?

- Wash your hands and access before getting in the dialysis chair.
- Let your dialysis staff know if you need help with washing your access.
- Wash your hands when you leave the dialysis clinic.
Hand Hygiene Word Search

Find these 11 words to complete the word search and help wash George the Germ down the drain.

Germs  Soap  Hygiene
Hands  Clean  Water
Wash  Healthy  Sanitizer
Disease  Scrub

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