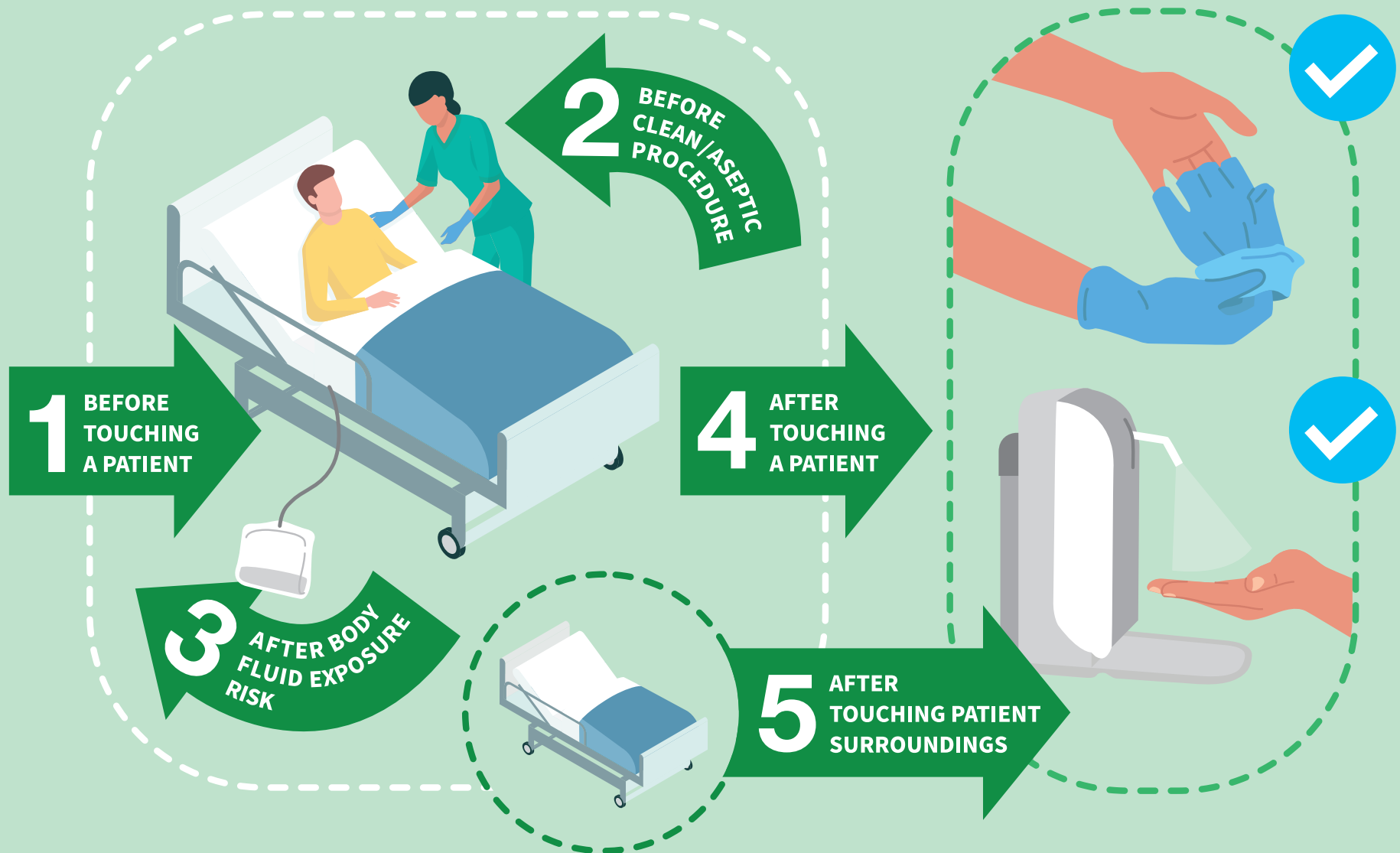


WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

SAVE LIVES: CLEAN YOUR HANDS

5
MAY
2025

IT MIGHT BE GLOVES. IT'S ALWAYS HAND HYGIENE.



Medical gloves are used in healthcare and are defined as disposable gloves used during medical procedures. These gloves can get contaminated as easily as bare hands and do not protect 100%. When worn, gloves should be removed, for example, after touching a patient and hand hygiene performed immediately as per the WHO 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene.



Regardless of whether gloves are worn, hand hygiene - at the right times and in the right way is still one of the most important measures to protect patients and health workers in healthcare. By 2026, hand hygiene compliance monitoring and feedback should be established as a key national indicator, at the very least in all reference hospitals. Currently 68% of countries report they are doing this.



Excessive glove use contributes significantly to the volume of health care waste. Appropriate glove use and hand hygiene can help minimize this waste. Using gloves when not indicated wastes resources and does not necessarily reduce transmission of germs. Between February and August 2020, 3 billion items of personal protective equipment were used (that is known), resulting in 591 tonnes of waste per day. The greatest contribution came from gloves.