

Guidance

on the use of Alcohol Gel

Normally you should wash your hands before and after you work with a patient or client. When possible you should wash your hands with soap and water and dry them thoroughly with a clean towel, alternatively you could use soap and water hand wipes.

Alcohol Gel **should** be used in the following situations:

- if the above facilities are not available;
- between patient/client contacts when time does not allow for the above;
- after contact with a patient/client who is known or suspected to have an infection;
- in addition to normal hand washing, before and after clinical or personal care procedures which involve contact with broken skin, mucous membranes or bodily fluids.

NB: After not more than five consecutive applications, to prevent build up and stickiness on them, hands must be washed.

- You **should not use** Alcohol Gel when hands are soiled or look dirty.

Staff requiring further advice should contact their Line Manager.

Alcohol Gel

Health and Safety Information

- 1 Keep out of reach of children.
- 2 Avoid eye contact. Wash immediately with clean water for at least 10 minutes.
- 3 Do not ingest the product. Rinse mouth and throat thoroughly. Give approximately half a pint of water to drink and obtain medical attention immediately.
- 4 Stop using the product, inform your line manager immediately and contact the Northern Occupational Health Service should you experience any skin irritation during or following the use of this product.
- 5 Allow your hands to dry off and the alcohol vapour to disperse before undertaking any further activity (this will normally take a few seconds provided an excessive amount has not been used).
- 6 **Alcohol Gel or vapour can be a hazard near electrical devices, oxygen or a naked flame, bedding and clothing should be kept free from Alcohol Gel.**