

West House Dental Practice Hand Hygiene Policy

1. Nails must be short and clean and free of nail art, false nails or nail varnish. Nails can be cleaned using a blunt 'orange' stick.
2. Wash hands using liquid soap or alcohol gel wash between each patient treatment and before donning and after removal of gloves. Follow the hand washing techniques displayed at each hand wash sink. Nail brushes must not be used: they can cause abrasion of the skin where microorganisms can reside.
3. There are designated 'hand wash' only sinks in all clinical areas.
4. Hand washing technique posters are displayed in each room.
5. Antibacterial based hand rubs/ gels can be used instead of hand washing between patients during surgery sessions if the hands appear visibly clean. It should be applied using the same techniques as for hand washing. The product recommendations for the maximum number of applications should not be exceeded. If hands become 'sticky', they must be washed using liquid soap.
6. All soap and hand rub/gels are in battery operated dispensers, this is to limit cross infection which hand pump dispensers are prone to.
7. At the end of each session and following hand washing, apply the hand cream provided to counteract dryness. Do not use hand cream under gloves: it can encourage the growth of microorganisms.
8. Staff receives regular training as part of our decontamination training.

Reviewed 14/05/18

Next review date May 2019 or as necessary