
Hand Hygiene

Hand Hygiene is the single most important way to prevent infection. Staff at St. Agnes Podiatry make sure that hands are cleaned before and after visits with patients, after contact with blood or other potentially infectious material and after removing gloves or other protective clothing.

Hand Rubs

- Alcohol hand rubs are available in most health care settings. Rubs are practical and an acceptable alternative to hand washing.
- Hand Rub Solution should come in contact with all surfaces of the hands. Hands should be rubbed together vigorously.

Hand Washing

- Wet your hands: then apply soap.
- Rub the soap lather all over your hands.
- Wash all surfaces of your hands and fingers for 10 to 15 seconds. Be sure to get under your nails, around cuticles and between fingers.
- Rinse your hands well, until all the soap comes off. Point your hands down as you rinse.
- Dry your hands completely using disposable towel.
- Turn off the tap with a paper towel



Other Infection Control Priorities

- Cleaning standards are important to us and we conduct regular cleaning audits.
- Our health care facility is environmentally conscious and our waste disposal meets waste guidelines.
- Staff health, including immunisation is a major priority so that our staff are not a risk to patients and they are protected from contracting infections from patients.

Practice Accreditation

St. Agnes Podiatry is working towards accreditation against the National Safety and Quality Healthcare Service Standards applicable to Podiatry delivered by Quality Innovation Performance. Although not mandatory for allied health services, St Agnes Podiatry chose to partake in accreditation to demonstrate to the public its commitment in complying with Australian industry standards including quality improvement in the areas of infection control, instrument sterilisation, hygiene practices, policy and procedures, staff welfare/safety and customer communication/feedback.

Please visit the QIP webpage for more information about the accreditation program.
www.qip.com.au



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Infection Control



A Patient/Visitor Information Brochure
Feel free to ask questions.
Staff will be happy to talk with you about infection control.
Remember to clean your hands.
Do this often and correctly

What Is An Infection?

An infection is an illness caused by “germs” such as bacteria and viruses. An infection is “contagious” / “infectious” when it can be passed from person to person. The common cold is an example of a contagious disease. By following a few simple steps we can reduce the risk of spreading germs to patients and staff. Staff and patients have an important role to play in infection control.

Who is At Risk?

Infection control is an essential part of quality health care. It recognises that patients can acquire infections while receiving health care and these infections can be minimised by adopting appropriate infection control practises. Both patients and healthcare workers can be at risk of acquiring infections while they are in the health care setting.



Infection Control – Our Priority

It is always our intention that patients will be treated with care in an environment committed to the prevention of cross infection. As such, **St. Agnes Podiatry** adopts a risk management approach and complies with the following documents:

- APodC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines
- The Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Health care by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 2010
- The AS/NZS 4815:2006 Office-based health care facilities- Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment
- Infection control is the responsibility of all staff at St. Agnes Podiatry
- All new staff must attend a specific infection control orientation session and are expected to attend regular infection control education updates.



Why Precautions Are Used

Infections like HIV and hepatitis B and C can be passed through contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials. Someone with these viruses or other illness may not look sick. Because of this, standard precautions apply to all patients every time contact with blood or bodily fluids is possible.

Standard Precautions

Standard precautions are used at all times with all patients. The fact that your podiatrist uses standard precautions does not necessarily mean that you have a contagious disease. But to protect you and themselves, they assume that every patient may have an infection. Standard precautions, which include hand hygiene and wearing protective gloves, are good ways to prevent the spread of these and other serious infections.

