

GERMS CAN LIVE ON DEVICES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- When a device, like a pulse oximeter, is used on a patient's body to provide care, any germs on that device can be spread to places in or on the patient's body.
- If not handled correctly, shared medical devices can spread germs from one patient to another.
- When a device is put *into* a patient's body, any germs on the device can spread into the body.

Germs That Can Live On Devices

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA)
- *Streptococcus* (strep)
- *Candida* (including *C. auris*)
- Gut bacteria like *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, and *C. difficile* (*C. diff*)



Healthcare Tasks Involving Devices

- Taking vital signs
- Weighing patients
- Transporting patients
- Lifting patients

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves)



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