

GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.
- Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren't a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients.
- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.
- Some medical equipment, like oral syringes used to flush tube feeds, can provide a place for bacteria to grow. When that equipment is used, bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

Germs That Live in Water

- *Acinetobacter*
- *Serratia*
- *Pseudomonas*
- *Legionella*



Healthcare Tasks Involving Water

- Bathing
- Oral care
- Flushing tube feeds

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate supply storage
- Use of splash guards



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