



# CLARIFICATION: CDC/WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines Crosswalk and Health Care Staffing Services Certification Applicability

The February 2008 issue of *The Joint Commission Perspectives*<sup>®</sup> included an article titled “CDC/WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines Crosswalk” (pages 4–7), which references The Joint Commission’s National Patient Goal 7, Requirement 7A. This article explains the relationship between the **health care staffing services certification** program and National Patient Safety Goal 7, Requirement 7A.

While health care staffing services firms are not scored against the National Patient Safety Goals, they are accountable for their clinical staff to be oriented to and able to comply with these requirements. Under Standard HR.3, Element of Performance (EP) 4, certified health care staffing services firms are required to orient clinical staff to infection control, including hand hygiene. Currently, the text of Standard HR.3, EP 4 notes “see National Patient Safety Goals.” In the 2009 version of the *Health Care Staffing Services (HCSS) Certification Manual*, this EP will directly reference National Patient Safety Goal 7, Requirement 7A.

## Standard HR.3, EPs 3 & 4

### Elements of Performance for Standard HR.3

The firm orients clinical staff to the following:

- C M 3. Safety, including applicable National Patient Safety Goals (see [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org))
- C M 4. Infection control, including either use of the Centers for Disease Control Hand Hygiene 1a, 1b, and 1c Guidelines recommendations or the World Health Organization’s hand hygiene guidelines (see National Patient Safety Goals)

See the box above for the full text of HCSS Standard HR.3, EPs 3 and 4, which reference The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals. For further information, please contact The Joint Commission’s Standards Interpretation Group at 630/792-5900. 