

MEDIA RELEASE



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Publication of AS 1071-2015: *Placement and presentation of hand hygiene materials in health care settings*

On 17 November 2015, Standards Australia published AS 1071, *Placement and presentation of hand hygiene materials in health care settings*.

The standard specifies requirements and provides guidance on the placement, presentation, design, maintenance and installation of hand hygiene products for use in health care settings.

Its objective is to reduce disease and death resulting from health care associated infections; reduce waste of solutions from incorrect use; and improve hand hygiene by reducing errors in hand hygiene practices associated with choice and use of products.

It was prepared by Technical Committee SF-021, Human Factors. This committee has representatives from industry associations, medical associations, educational institutes, and interest groups for safety and ergonomics.

One of the nominating organisations constituting this committee is the Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Foundation (QEMRF).

QEMRF chair Associate Professor Sally McCarthy said it was remarkable that an initial research grant of \$16, 800 had delivered a national protocol and improved health care for millions of Australians.

"We are extremely proud that QEMRF-funded research, led by Brisbane emergency medicine specialist Dr Michael Sinnott, has created such wide-ranging, practical outcomes," Associate Professor McCarthy said.

The study, conducted at the Princess Alexandra Emergency Department, found that the placement and selection of soap, sanitising foam and hand lotion led to better hygiene amongst health care workers in Emergency Departments.

Debra O'Connor, representative of the Consumers Federation of Australia, added that "health care acquired infections are a major concern for consumers, particularly for older people and other vulnerable groups. This practical standard will contribute to the improvement of hand hygiene, an essential component of prevention and should inform practice across all health care settings."

Standards Australia recognises the contribution of all nominating organisations and contributors to the document and the process.

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