

Hospital Association Awards Sunnyside for Outstanding Hand Hygiene

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Sunnyside Community Hospital was recognized for outstanding hand hygiene practices during the 78th Annual Meeting of the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA).

Sunnyside earned the 2011 “Best Hands on Care” Award for its efforts to decrease the spread of infection through proper hand hygiene. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hand washing is critical to the prevention of hospital-acquired infections. The simple act of proper hand washing or hand sanitizing can reduce the spread of infection by 25%.

The hand hygiene campaign is just one component of a collaborative effort among Washington hospitals to reduce preventable acquired infections.

The program began in 2005. It was the first statewide effort in the nation to bring hospitals together to collaboratively share strategy for improving hand hygiene.

The Best Hands on Care Award was first presented in 2007. Hospitals receive the award for exemplary rates of hand hygiene, using an evidence-based system of measuring soap and sanitizer usage and comparing usage rates to the number of patients in the hospital.

A total of nine hospitals received the 2011 Best Hands on Care Award. In addition to Sunnyside Community Hospital – those recognized were in Puyallup, Tacoma, Othello, Bellingham, Prosser, Colville, Snoqualmie, and Swedish Cherry Hill in Seattle.

This is the 4th time that Sunnyside Community Hospital has received the award.