



New Policy Regarding Artificial Nails

- The CDC includes in their 2002 Guidelines for Hand Hygiene in HealthCare Settings a 1A ranked recommendation that states "Do not wear artificial fingernails or extenders when having direct contact with patients at high-risk." A 1A ranking means that it is *strongly recommended* for implementation and strongly supported by research.
- The JCAHO has also added these recommendations from CDC to their Infection Control standards and included the issue of artificial nails in Patient Safety Goal #7.
- Based on the CDC recommendation and the JCAHO standard, Bridge Staffing, Inc., has endorsed recommendations regarding artificial nails. The recommendations are:

All hospital staff who have direct contact with any hospitalized patients, hospital staff who prepare sterile products, and staff who have direct contact with out- patients in dialysis and oncology units, IV infusion clinics, and wound care clinics are prohibited from wearing artificial nails or extenders. This would include but not be limited to artificial nails, nail wraps, nail tips, acrylic lengtheners, appliqués, etc. Nail polish is permitted but should not be chipped.

Implementation Date: Immediately

I have read and understand this recommendation:

Nurse's Signature

Date