



# Practice Briefs

---

## **Are there sinks where you should not wash your hands?**

**YES**

Hand washing should not be performed in sinks which are contaminated (e.g., sinks used for instrument decontamination and dumping of urine specimens). In areas with limited workspace, signage should be posted and training should be done with staff to define clean and dirty spaces.

ICAP recommends the Clinic Survey Tool at this link. See #2 d for the specific question about clean sinks. [https://apic.org/Resource\\_/TinyMceFileManager/Academy/ASC\\_101\\_resources/Assessment\\_Checklist/Ambulatory\\_Checklist\\_1.xlsx](https://apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Academy/ASC_101_resources/Assessment_Checklist/Ambulatory_Checklist_1.xlsx).<sup>1</sup>

- 1 Bringhurst, J. Preventing Infection in Ambulatory Care: "Big Outbreaks Don't Happen in Hospitals". APIC Quarterly e-newsletter, Winter 2011/2012. Retrieved from [http://apic.org/Resource\\_/TinyMceFileManager/Education/Preventing-Inf-in-Amb-Care-Winter2012-FINAL.PDF](http://apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Education/Preventing-Inf-in-Amb-Care-Winter2012-FINAL.PDF)