**Performing Hand Washing Skill Checklist**

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| Step | Rationale |
| Review client’s chart and assess risk for infection.   * Immune status, open wounds, medical diagnosis. |  |
| Inspect hands.   * Assess for open lesions, visible soil on hands and fingernails are clean and short. * Remove rings and bracelets. * Push watches and sleeves above wrists. |  |
| Prepare to wash hands.   * Stand in front of sink, do not let uniform touch sink area. |  |
| Turn on water.   * Warm temperature at a medium flow. * Avoid splashing. |  |
| Wet hands and wrists before applying antimicrobial soap. |  |
| Apply a small amount of antimicrobial soap and begin to lather soap around hands, fingernails and wrists.   * Duration: a minimum of 20 seconds. * Scrub all surfaces of hands, fingernails and wrists   + Remember to wash sides of hand, between fingers, and under fingernails. |  |
| Rinse hands and wrists thoroughly.   * Keep hands below elbows. |  |
| Dry hands and wrists thoroughly.   * Direction: finger tips to wrists. |  |
| Turn off water with clean paper towel.   * Avoid touching sink area with clean hands or uniform. |  |
| Inspect hands, fingernails and wrists for dermatitis or cracked skin. Ensure all surface of hands are clean and free of debris. |  |