



## **Physician Hand Hygiene Champion: Role Description**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Physician Hand Hygiene Champion will provide leadership, guidance, and mentorship to his/her clinical units regarding hand hygiene.

### **Objectives of the Program**

1. To reduce the risk of infection to patients and staff and affiliates
2. To review and provide contextual information regarding hand hygiene compliance rates
3. To facilitate timely communication of important hand hygiene information

### **Rationale**

We are looking to improve rates of physician hand hygiene compliance on clinical units of LHSC. Physicians are able, more than any other, to directly influence their colleagues in this regard – through education, collaboration and leading by example.

### **Responsibilities**

The Physician Hand Hygiene Champion will:

1. Maintain awareness of infection prevention and control
2. Provide support, education, advice and mentorship to the care team
3. Collaborate with the Infection Safety Champion and Infection Control Practitioners
4. Be a communication link with regards to hand hygiene issues and compliance rates as they pertain to physicians within the department/division
5. Assist in problem solving regarding hand hygiene and infection safety
6. Assist with hand hygiene audits, being mindful of the Hawthorne effect
7. Work under the direction of the chair/chief

### **Qualifications**

In order to ensure competency in practice, the Physician Hand Hygiene Champion will:

1. Be a physician, resident or designee who is interested in infection control
2. Demonstrate an interest in hand hygiene, epidemiology, microbiology and improving patient safety
3. Demonstrate leadership and communication skills
4. Be willing to act in the role of Physician Hand Hygiene Champion for one year and transition to the next champion in collaboration with the chair/chief

**Supporting Resources/ Collaborators**

The Physician Hand Hygiene Champion:

1. May attend initial recommended training (two-hour in-class training session on the hand hygiene auditing process followed by a two-hour validation session in the unit) to learn practical information on infection prevention and control, to understand and perform hand hygiene auditing to influence change.
2. Will work collaboratively with the Infection Safety Champion/Auditor with regard to the hand hygiene audits and data entry.
3. Will work collaboratively with the Infection Safety Champion and, if necessary, other corporate resources (such as Process Improvement Consultants or Communications Consultants) to identify and collect targeted data to implement change in practice or process protocol and policy.