

# Definitions and Terminology

- **Hand Hygiene**

General term for performing handwashing, antiseptic handwash, alcohol-based handrub, or surgical hand hygiene/antiseptics

- **Handwashing**

Washing hands with plain soap and water

- **Antiseptic handwash**

Washing hands with water and soap or other detergents containing an antiseptic agent

- **Alcohol-based handrub**

Rubbing hands with an alcohol-containing preparation

- **Surgical hand hygiene/antiseptics**

Surgical scrub (extended period handwashing with antiseptic agent) **-or-**  
Alcohol-based handrub



Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-care Settings. *MMWR* 2002; vol. 51, no. RR-16.



# Indications for Hand Hygiene

- When hands are **visibly dirty, contaminated**, or soiled, **wash** with non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial soap and water.
- If hands are *not visibly soiled*, use an alcohol-based **hand rub** for routinely decontaminating hands
  - except for spore-forming bacteria, e.g., *C.difficile*, certain non-enveloped viruses, e.g., norovirus, protozoan oocysts and prions.

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Checkpoint #3: Which hand hygiene method is best at killing most pathogens and least drying to most skin?

1. Plain soap and tap water
2. Antimicrobial soap and tap water
3. Alcohol-based hand rub



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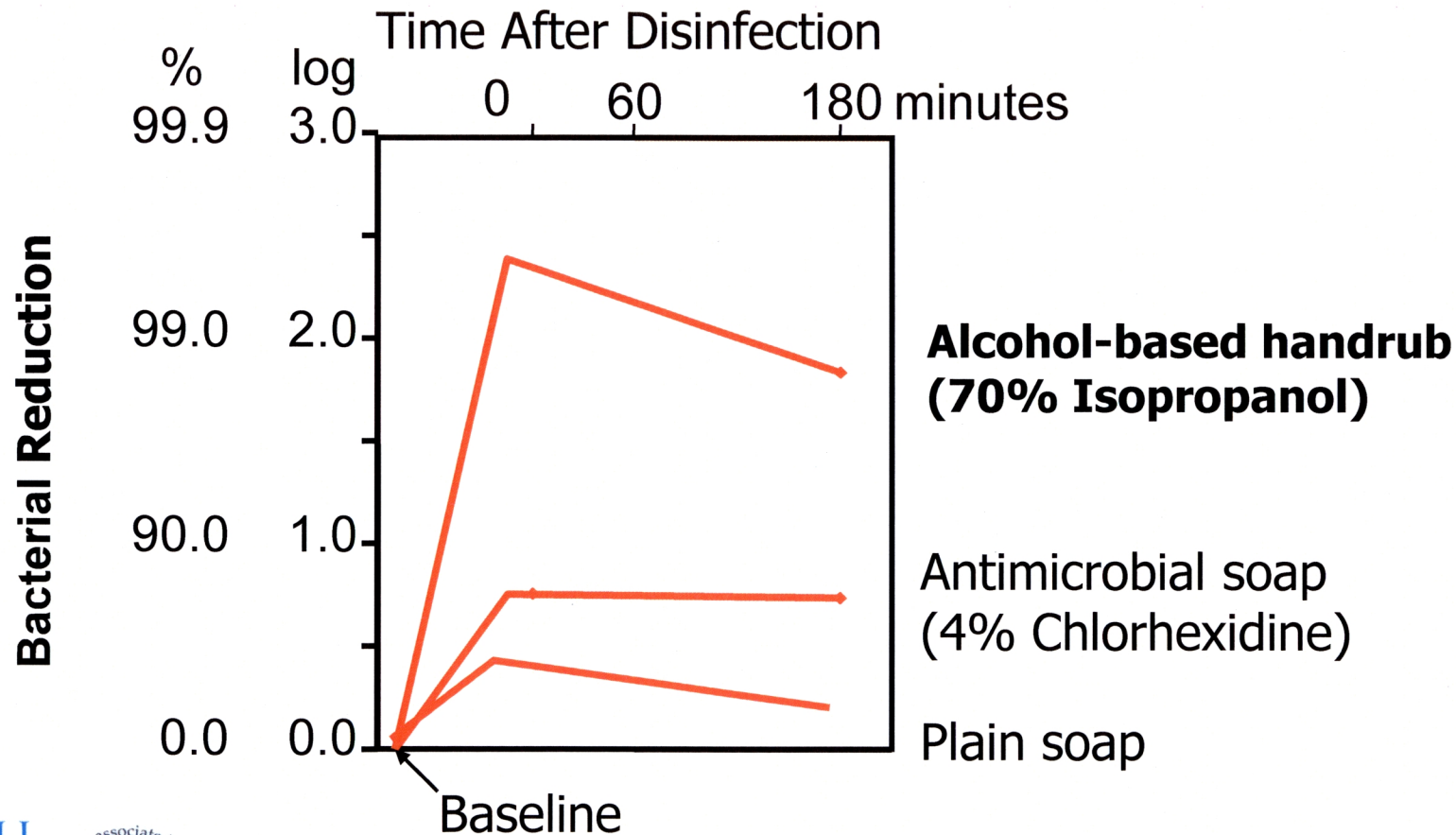
# Efficacy of Hand Hygiene Preparations



\* less effective in presence of organic material, soil soil



# Comparison of Hand Hygiene Products on Bacterial Reduction



Adapted from *Hosp Epidemiol Infect Control*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1999