GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

- Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.

- Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren’t a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients with very weak immune systems.

- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.

- If medical instruments and equipment (e.g., devices and central lines) get wet, bacteria can grow. When those devices are used, that bacteria can then get into a patient’s body or blood and cause infection.

Germs That Live in Water
- Acinetobacter
- Serratia
- Pseudomonas
- Legionella

Healthcare Tasks Involving Water
- Toileting
- Cleaning
- Handwashing

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Device sterilization
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)

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