

# Hand Washing

- **Unmedicated soap, medicated soap and waterless agents are equally effective in a standardized one minute wash**
- **Almost no HCWs complete a standardized 1 minute hand wash**
- **Medicated soap or waterless agents should be used in healthcare setting**

# Hand washing compliance

- **All HCWs: 10% – 76%**
- **Physicians: 10% - 59%**
- **Factors affecting compliance**
  - **Profession, ward, time of day, nurse to patient ratio, risk of patient care activity**
  - **Modeling after attending physicians**

*Pittet, Ann Intern Med 1999;130:126. Albert, NEJM 1981;24:1456.  
Jarvis, Lancet 1994;344(8933):1311.*