

Germs can live in **WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.**

**KNOW WHERE GERMS LIVE TO STOP SPREAD
AND PROTECT PATIENTS.**



WHERE IS THE RISK?

- 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.
- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.
- Some medical equipment, like oral syringes used to flush tube feeds, can provide a place for bacteria to grow. When that equipment is used, 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

- Bathing
- Oral care
- Flushing tube feeds



INFECTION CONTROL ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate supply storage
- Use of splash guards