

The Safe Patient

An educational patient safety series with free downloadable brochures, a service of The Patient Channel and Safe Care Campaign, in cooperation with the CDC

Receiving Safe Care in the Hospital: The Hospital Room

- **When you're in the hospital it's important to ask everyone coming into your room to wash or sanitize their hands.** But can you pick up dangerous bacteria from all kinds of surfaces inside your own hospital room.

Patient's hospital rooms can be made as safe as possible by making sure that the room is kept environmentally as clean as possible. Frequently emptying the trash, mopping down the floor, and vigilantly wiping down horizontal surfaces are all extremely important to the infection prevention process.

Sometimes well-meaning guests bring gifts that happen to be the source of the bacteria in the hospital room. When someone brings you a beautiful bouquet of flowers, or a box of cookies, those surfaces have bacteria too. The key is not to deliver those bacteria to one of those vulnerable places like your wound or your IV site. **But the fact is most bacteria hitch a ride on humans.**

Caregivers and the patients themselves are the major source of potential infections.

- The hospital will take great care to clean your room but **to cut down on your potential risk of infection, make sure that everyone who comes into your room washes or sanitizes their hands before and after touching you and/or any object in the room.**

