

Hand Dermatitis

Online Learning Module



Healthcare workers are at risk of developing occupational contact dermatitis (OCD) involving the hands. It's estimated that between 30-50% of all HCWs have OCD, of varying severity. Skin barrier damage caused by OCD is associated with bacterial colonisation, potentially contributing to hospital acquired infections and impacting on patient health. There is also risk to the health and quality of life of the healthcare worker.

With early identification of OCD, education about use of alcohol based hand rub and appropriate skin care, OCD is largely preventable.

This training module will raise awareness of OCD in all nurses and health care workers. They will learn how to prevent it, detect early symptoms and know what action to take if it develops.

This module was developed by the Occupational Dermatology Research & Education Centre, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc. Melbourne. This module was funded by Safe Work Australia and developed with support from Hand Hygiene Australia. To access this online module visit the Hand Hygiene Australia website: www.hha.org.au then select "Online Learning Module" and then select "Other modules" from the catalogue. A certificate of achievement is available once module has been completed.

Information about contact dermatitis has also been added to the existing Hand Hygiene Nursing/ Midwifery Online Learning Module.

For further information please email Amanda Palmer, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc. apalmer@occderm.asn.au or ph. 03 9623 9402, www.occderm.asn.au or www.skincancer.asn.au