

Dispenser placement guide for hospitals

How to optimize dispenser placement for improved hygiene



Proper hand hygiene is considered the single most important method for preventing contamination and reducing healthcare associated infections (HAIs). Research shows that hand hygiene dispensers have a significant impact on compliance rates¹, and the key to success is making sure they are correctly placed. In fact, studies show that optimizing dispenser placement can **increase usage by more than 50%.**²

To help you boost hand hygiene compliance in your healthcare facility, we have created evidence-based guides for optimal dispenser placement. The visualizations suggest dispenser placements in areas commonly found in healthcare facilities that support compliance with the important World Health Organization's (WHO) 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene.

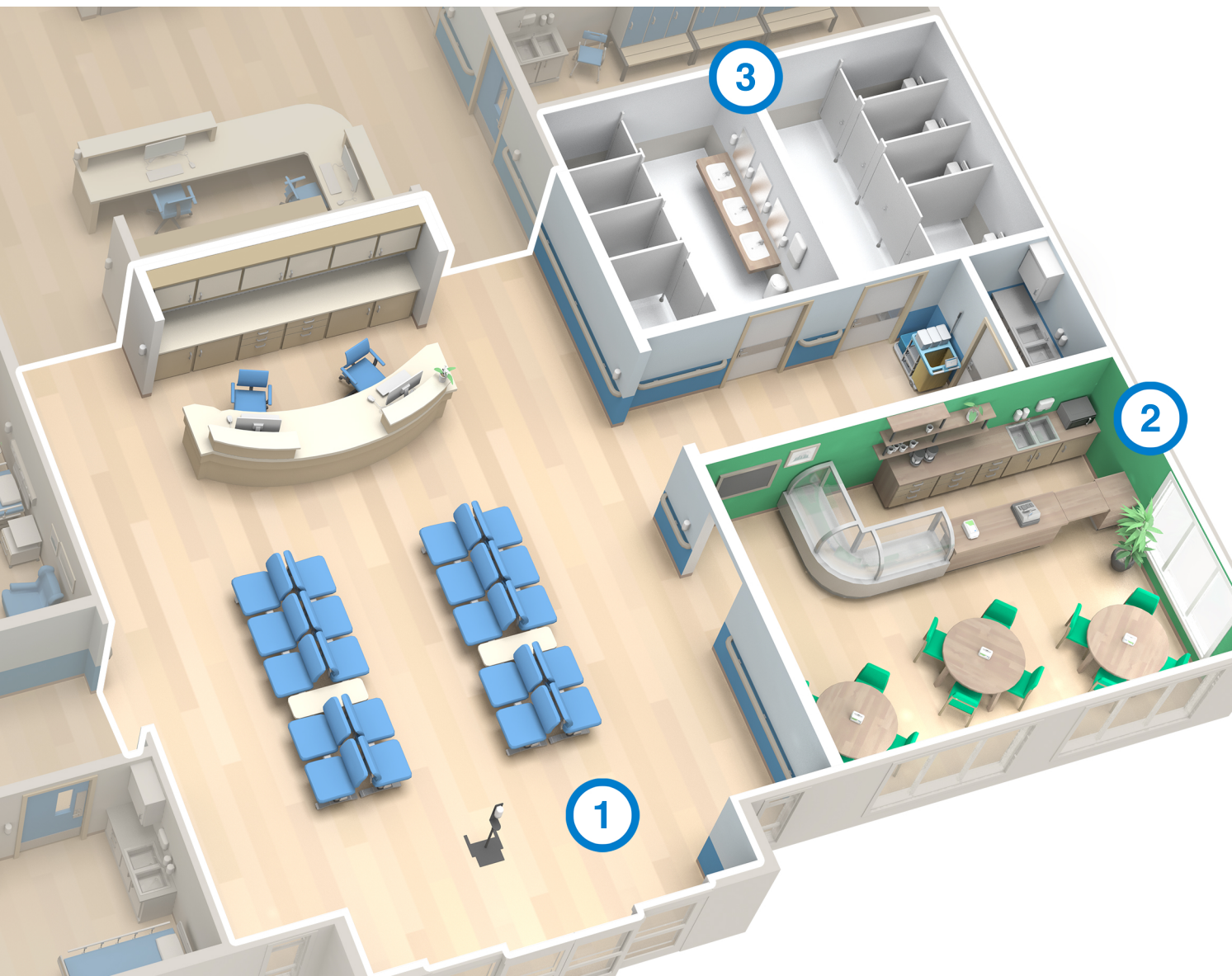
The information in the placement guide is based on both Essity-sponsored research and independent findings from academic research.

¹Boog, Matthijs C., Vicki Erasmus, Jitske M De Graaf, Elise (A) He Van Beeck, Marijke Melles, and Ed F Van Beeck. Assessing the Optimal Location for Alcohol-based Hand Rub Dispensers in a Patient Room in an Intensive Care Unit. BMC Infect Dis BMC Infectious Diseases 13.1 (2013): 510.
²Thomas BW, Berg-Copas GM, Vasquez DG, Jackson BL, Wetta-Hall R. Conspicuous vs Customary Location of Hand Hygiene Agent Dispensers on Alcohol-Based Hand Hygiene Product Usage in an Intensive Care Unit. J Am Osteopath Assoc 2009;109(5):263-267.

Public areas

Dispenser placement recommendations for hospitals

In public spaces and staff areas dispenser visibility is very important for improved hygiene. Many visitors do not clean their hands when entering and leaving the facility³. Giving easy access to and info about the importance of hand hygiene could have great benefits.



1

Entrance

Place hand sanitizers prominently at all entrances for visitors and staff. Use signs and posters to promote hand hygiene. The waiting area is a large, high traffic, shared space, and the risk for contamination is prevalent. We recommend hand sanitizers either on walls or stands. Place a center feed dispenser with towels and disinfecting wipes here for spills.

2

Cafeteria

Sanitizers should be placed near the entrance and exit of the cafeteria. Food preparation areas should have a sufficient number of sinks dedicated for hand hygiene. Each wash station should be equipped with soap and paper towel dispensers. Easy access to cleaning products is a simple way to keep on top of hygiene. We recommend small or portable dispensers for crowded spaces at work stations. Napkin dispensers on every table in the dining area will be appreciated. Secure access to surface cleaning products to wipe down counters and spills in the refrigerator.

3

Public restrooms

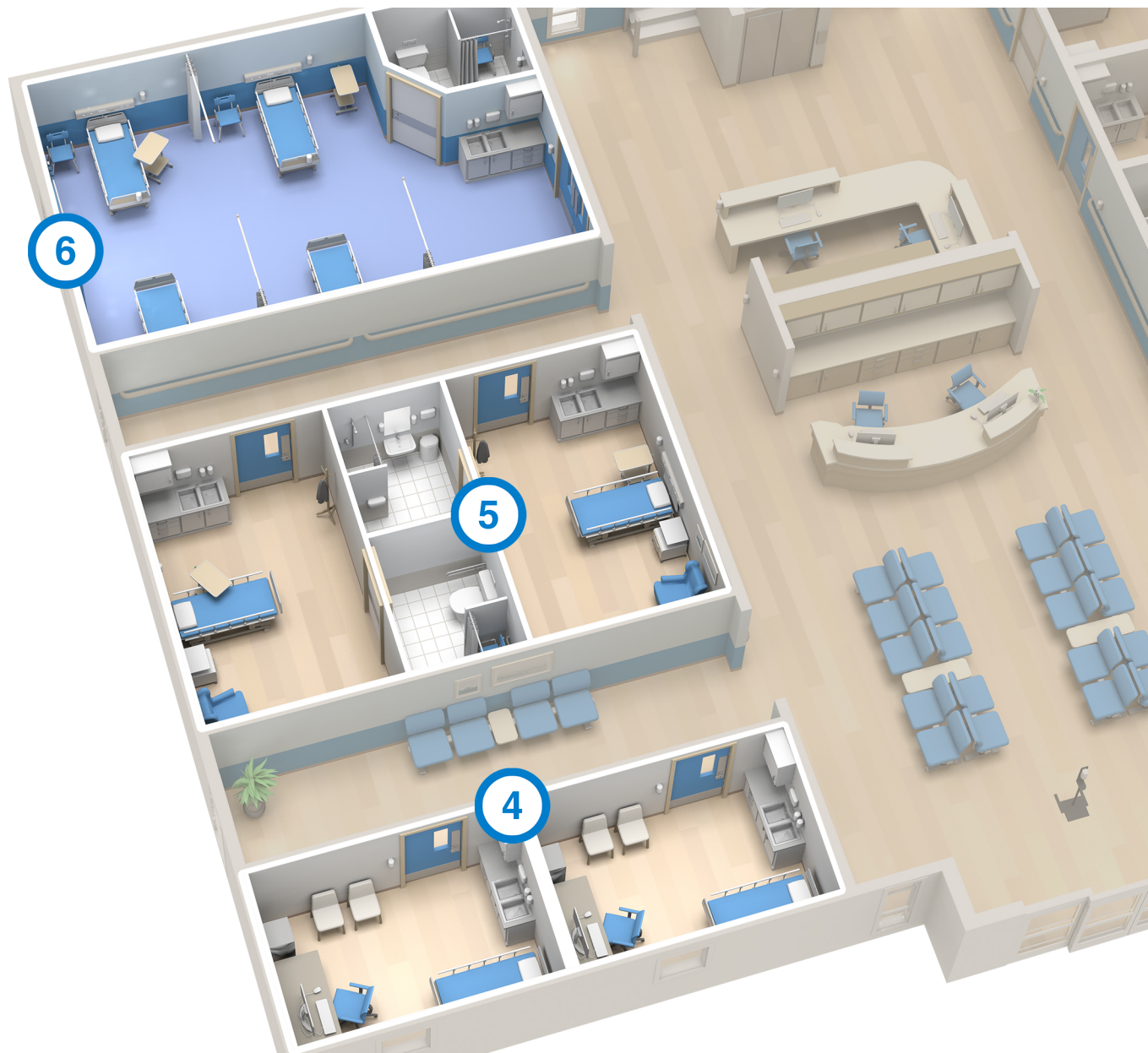
Hand soap and hand towels along with hand sanitizers should be available next to the sink in the public restroom. Use posters with instructions on how to wash hands. Change posters regularly for optimal attention.

³Euro Surveill. 2009 Sep 17;14(37). pii: 19331.
Sub-optimal hand sanitiser usage in a hospital entrance during an influenza pandemic, New Zealand, August 2009. Murray R1, Chandler C, Clarkson Y, Wilson N, Baker M, Cunningham R; Wellington Respiratory and

Patient care areas

Dispenser placement recommendations for hospitals

Make sure to have dispensers strategically placed. Here is what we recommend.



4

Examination rooms

Examination rooms need easy access to hygiene dispensers. Install hand sanitizers at point of care, preferably locked and mounted on the wall. Make sure to have a hand towel and soap dispenser close to the sink as well as surface hygiene products to wipe down counters and exam surfaces after use.

5

Single patient rooms

Place hand sanitizers in accordance with the 5 moments of hand hygiene. Placing hand sanitizers on “walking-routes” or at the site where care is more frequently provided results in more usage. Dispensers should not be out of the way, behind another object or out of sight. **Note:** Placing dispensers in bed brackets is a good addition to more permanent placement of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR).

6

Multiple patient rooms

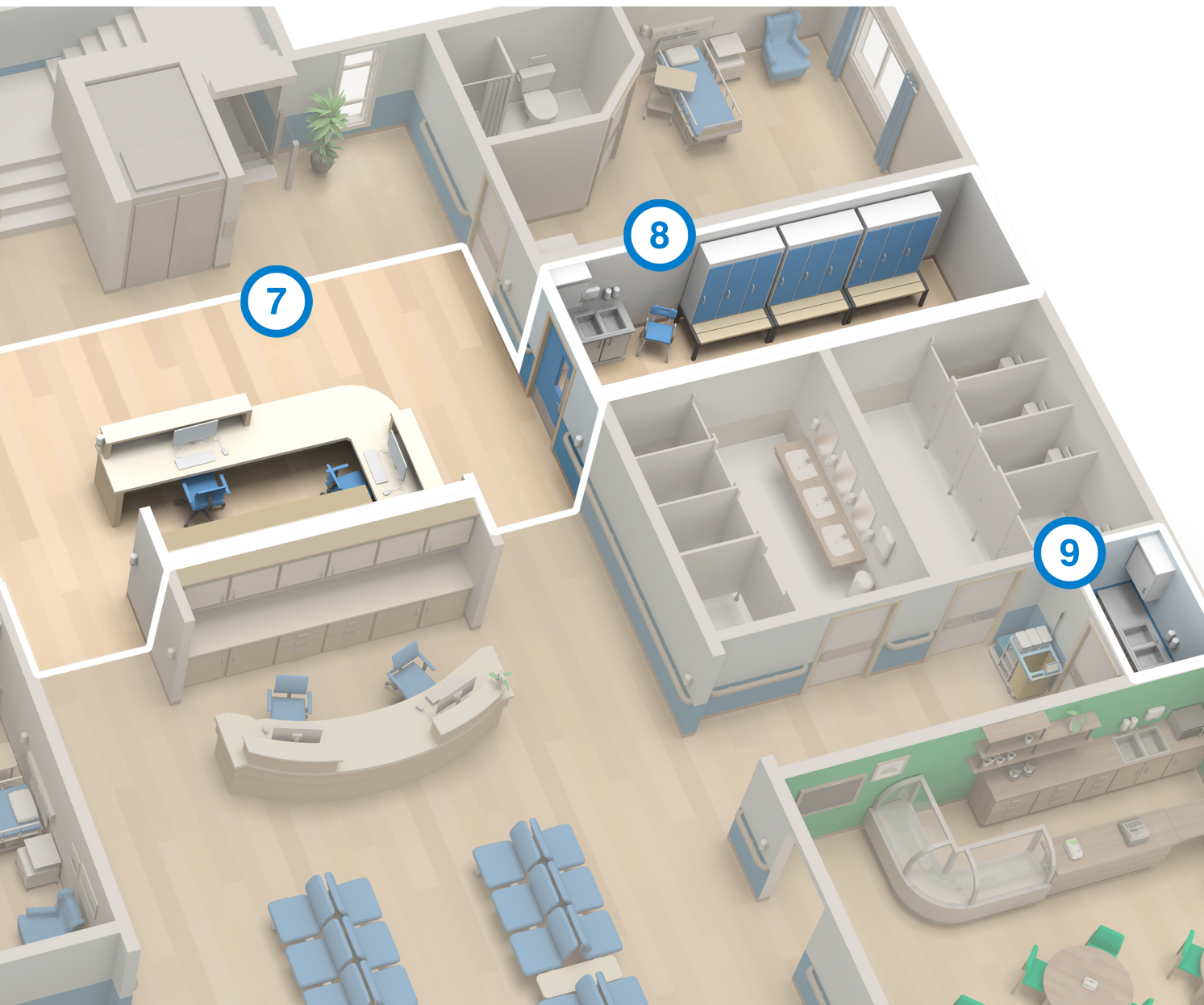
This type of room requires more than one dispenser. Familiar locations eliminate the need to look for dispensers. In one observational study, dispensers located near the sink and the entrance to the room were used more frequently than dispensers at the rear of the room.⁴ Perform a workflow study to see where the “high-traffic” areas of the room are as well as where healthcare workers are standing when one of the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene occurs. Also take extra care to see where healthcare workers move between patients.

⁴Boog, Matthijs C., Vicki Erasmus, Jitske M De Graaf, Elise (A) He Van Beeck, Marijke Melles, and Ed F Van Beeck. Assessing the Optimal Location for Alcohol-based Hand Rub Dispensers in a Patient Room in an Intensive Care Unit. BMC Infect Dis BMC Infectious Diseases 13.1 (2013): 510.

Staff areas

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7

Nurse station

The possibility of transmission is high in this area as the space is shared. Hand sanitizer should be readily accessible at each side of the nurses' station, and we recommend having surface cleaning products available to wipe down shared spaces. An observational study showed that dispensers located at the nursing station were used more frequently than dispensers placed on the wall behind patient beds.⁵ Also, place dispensers in "moment-intensive" places such as walking corridors.

8

Staff facilities

Staff facilities are important areas as staff might have just entered the facility. Easy access to a sink with soap, hand sanitizer, lotions, and paper hand towels is a simple way to keep on top of hygiene.

9

Utility rooms

Easy access to refills for cleaners is of importance. Place refills in a way that enables cleaners to work efficiently and keep other patient care focused areas hygienic.

⁵Essity Internal study, Netherlands 2015.