

Dispenser placement guide for hospitals

How to optimise 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 optimising 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 visualisations 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.

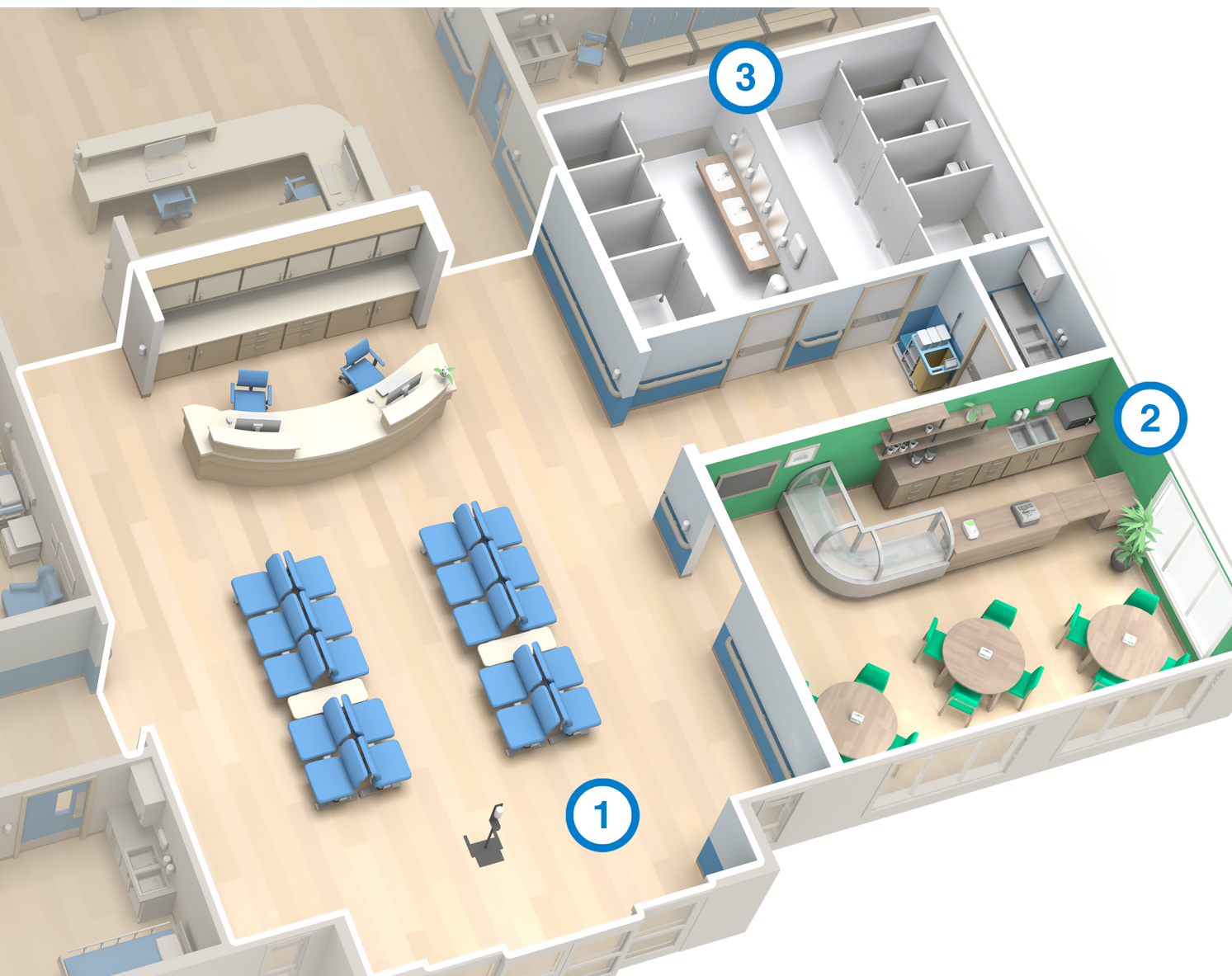
The information in the placement guide is based on both Essity-sponsored research and independent findings from academic research.

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 Sanitiser 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. Providing easy access to and info about the importance of hand hygiene could have great benefits.



1

Entrance

Place hand sanitisers 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 sanitisers either on the walls or stands. Place a centrefeed dispenser with towels here for spills.

2

Cafeteria

Sanitisers should be placed near the entrance and exit of the cafeteria. Food preparation areas should have a sufficient number of sinks dedicated to 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 washrooms

Hand soap and hand towels along with hand sanitisers should be available next to the sink in the public washroom. An air freshener will also help remove odours. Use posters with instructions on how to wash hands or special dispenser information signage holders. 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 Hand Hygiene Study Group.

Patient-care areas

Dispenser placement recommendations for hospitals

Make sure dispensers are strategically placed. Here's what we recommend.



4

Examination rooms

Examination rooms need easy access to hygiene dispensers. Install hand sanitisers at point-of-care, preferably locked and mounted on the wall, and use dispensers with an arm lever. Ensure that a hand towel and soap dispenser are 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 sanitisers 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

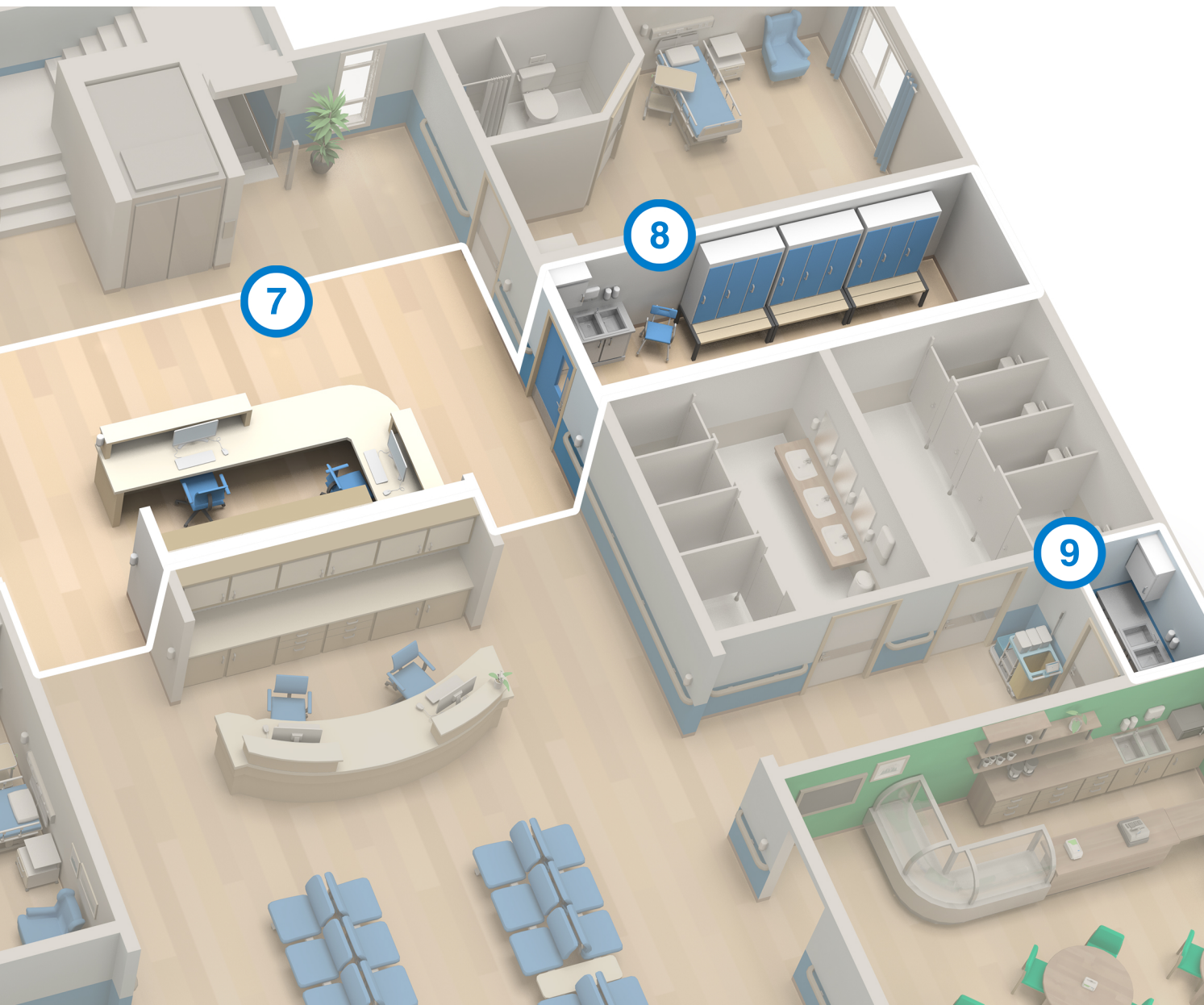
Perform a workflow study to see where the “high-traffic” areas of the room are, as well as where healthcare workers are standing when one of the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene occurs. Also take extra care to see where healthcare workers move between patients.

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 Sanitiser 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 sanitiser should be readily accessible at each side of the nurse station, and we recommend having surface-cleaning products available to wipe down shared spaces. An observational study showed that dispensers located at the nurse 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 may have just entered the facility. Easy access to a sink with soap, hand sanitiser, 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 important. Place refills in a way that enables cleaners to work efficiently and keep other patient-care-focused areas hygienic.

⁵Essity Internal study, Netherlands 2015.