Goal 7

**Reduce the risk of health care–associated infections.**

**Requirement 7A**

Comply with current World Health Organization (WHO) Hand Hygiene Guidelines

or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines.

**Rationale for Requirement 7A**

Compliance with the WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines or CDC hand hygiene guidelines

will reduce the transmission of infectious agents by staff to patients, thereby

decreasing the incidence of health care–associated infections.

**Implementation Expectation for Requirement 7A**

C \_ 1. Comply with current WHO Hand Hygiene Guidelines or Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines.\*

**Requirement 7B**

Manage as sentinel events all identified cases of unanticipated death or major permanent

loss of function associated with a health care–associated infection.

**Rationale for Requirement 7B**

A significant percentage of patients who unexpectedly die or suffer major permanent

loss of function have health care–associated infections. These unanticipated deaths

and injuries meet the definition of a sentinel event and, therefore, are required to

undergo a root cause analysis. The root cause analysis should attempt to answer the

questions (1) Why did the patient acquire an infection and, (2) Given the fact of the

infection, why did the patient die or suffer permanent loss of function?

**Implementation Expectations for Requirement 7B**

C \_ 1. The organization manages all identified cases of unanticipated death or

major permanent loss of function associated with a health care–associated

infection as sentinel events (that is, conducts a root cause analysis).

A 2. The root cause analysis addresses the management of the patient

before and after the identification of infection.