

# Sinks: A Mode of Infection Transmission?

Biofilm can build up when things are emptied in hand washing sinks. This can cause organisms that live in the pipes/drain to contaminate the environment from water and splashes when the sink is used. Sinks in health care systems should have splash guards to help reduce this risk.



Don't empty body fluids down the sink.



Don't empty IV bags, antibiotics, other IV additives or medications down the sink.



Don't pour liquid enteral food or food supplements down the sink.



Don't store patient/resident care items by the sinks.



For more information reach out to the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Team [hhsicar@nd.gov](mailto:hhsicar@nd.gov)

**Make sure your water safety program is looking at your sinks in care areas,**

- Are splash guards in place?
- Where are things stored around/below the sink?
- Do the faucets drain directly into the drain?
- Make sure sinks are draining properly.