



Alcohol wash introduced

Staff at Echuca, Cohuna and Rochester hospitals will rub their hands with alcohol in future instead of washing them.

Alcoholic hand rub has been found to be a better way of killing germs than soap and water.

Bendigo Health introduced the rub into all its clinical areas in 2004 as part of a pilot scheme involving six Victorian hospitals.

The rub proved so successful the Victorian Quality Council asked Bendigo Health to roll out a hand hygiene campaign to 16 hospitals in the Loddon Mallee region, including Echuca Regional Health, Cohuna District Hospital and Rochester and Elmore District Health Service.

Bendigo health's infection prevention control manager Jane Hellsten said hand hygiene was the single most effective measure in the prevention of hospital-acquired infections.

"Minimising the risk for patients, staff, visitors and volunteers has been and still is a key priority," she said.