

# GERMS CAN LIVE ON DEVICES.

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread  
and protect patients



- When a device, like a pulse oximeter, is used on a patient's body to provide care, any germs on that device can be spread to places in or on the patient's body.
- When a device is put *into* a patient's body, like an IV needle, endoscope, or artificial hip, any germs on the device can spread into the body.
- If not handled correctly, shared medical devices can spread germs from one patient to another.

## Germs That Can Live on Devices

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA)
- *Streptococcus* (strep)
- *Candida* (including *C. auris*)
- Gut bacteria like *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, and *C. difficile* (*C. diff*)



## Healthcare Tasks Involving Devices

- Surgery and procedures like colonoscopies
- Starting IVs
- Taking vital signs

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Device sterilization
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves)