FINGERNAIL GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF

All employees having direct patient contact have a responsibility for maintaining hand hygiene by adhering to specific infection control practices.

The use of artificial fingernail enhancements contributes to nail changes that can increase the risk of colonization and transmission of pathogens to patients.

The following policies apply:
- Fingernails are to be neatly manicured and of a length not to exceed 1/2 inch beyond the fingertip
- Nail polish is permitted
- Anything applied to natural nails other than polish is considered an enhancement. Nail enhancements are not to be worn. This includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - Artificial nails
  - Tips
  - Wraps
  - Appliqués
  - Acrylics
  - Gels

Any additional items applied to the nail surface not mentioned above.