Prevention Policies

Many doctors, including Dr. Neha Nanda and Dr. Brad Spellberg, who we heard from in Lesson 1, are not only concerned about seeing more patients with antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, they want everyone to do something about it. "Everyone can be their own best advocate," Dr. Nanda says. Given that effective treatment is not always available, the more bacterial infections can be avoided, the better. Being really careful about following some basic policies in hospitals, restaurants, and even just at home can make a big difference.

Choose one of the following policies you find the most interesting. You will use the Class Consensus Model to show how and why the doctors think these policies are effective.

The Operating Room

Surgeons and other health care providers working in operating rooms perform a "scrubbing in" protocol prior to surgery that includes vigorously scrubbing the skin of their hands and arms (up to the elbows) and their fingernails for 3–5 minutes before gowning and gloving in a way to prevent contamination. Explain how this protocol reduces the likelihood that a patient will suffer from a surgical site infection.

Home, Work, and Play

When people have a cut or scrape they are told to clean the wound thoroughly with things like soap, antiseptic wash, rubbing alcohol, iodine, or peroxide. Explain how these steps reduce the likelihood that the cut or scrape will lead to a serious infection.

Out to Eat

Restaurants have signs in the restroom that say "All employees must wash hands before returning to work." Explain how this policy decreases the chance that a restaurant worker will cause patrons to become sick from a bacterial infection.

Identify any specific components and/or interactions you need to add to the Gotta-Have-It Checklist. We compiled a checklist to explain how bacteria can cause infections, but this model might require more.

What will be necessary to include in your expanded model to help explain how the policy or behavior can lower the likelihood of a bacterial infection?

Expand the Class Consensus Model to include a representation showing why the behavior that you chose to explain leads to a lower chance of becoming ill due to a bacterial infection.

What you will need:

- The Class Consensus Model
- Your updated Gotta-Have-It Checklist

Directions:

- Use the space on the following page to create a model that explains how and why these policies decrease the likelihood of bacterial infections.
- Be sure to include a key to identify components of your model.
- If needed, include brief phrases on your model to help others understand the interactions the model includes.

Develop a model to explain how and why the policy you chose works to decrease the likelihood of serious infections.

Self-check: Using a different color of pencil (or using underlined phrases), point to where in your model each item you listed on your updated Gotta-Have-It Checklist appears.