Introduction: As the nurse travels from patient to patient, so does his/her stethoscope, leading to the potential spread of pathogens. Hand hygiene is a standard practice between patients with reminders for nurses in multiple locations; however, stethoscope hygiene does not have a standard practice.

Review of Literature: The CDC (2015) states *Staphylococcus aureas* (a gram-positive bacteria) is one of the most common types of hospital acquired infections. DiCosola & Li’s (2014) research indicates stethoscopes carry *Staphylococcus aureas*. Therefore, they may have the potential to transmit pathogens to patients in the same manner as skin-to-skin contact. The purpose of this study is to examine effectiveness of various cleaning methods to eliminate pathogens from stethoscopes.

Methods: Forty stethoscopes were swabbed, cleaned with one of two methods and swabbed after cleaning. The cleaning was timed to ensure uniformity.

Results: Two specimens were removed from the sample because of post cleaning contamination due to researcher error in the cleaning method. 55% of the pre-alcohol cultures showed gram positive growth. 10% of the post-alcohol cultures showed gram positive growth. 72.2% of the pre-chlorhexidine cultures showed gram positive growth. 11.1% of post-chlorhexidine cultures showed gram positive growth. Alcohol demonstrated 82% effectiveness and chlorhexadine was 93% effective for pathogen removal from our sample. Results were categorized by departments of the hospital for quality improvement purposes.

Discussion: The results show that both cleaning methods are effective at over 80% of pathogen removal with a 20 second cleaning. Our information will be shared with health care organizations to help them make policies for stethoscope cleaning in clinical areas.