

**The New York Times**

NATIONAL DESK | October 26, 2002, Saturday

Doctors Are Told Alcohol Gels Are Better Than Soap and Water

( AP ) 612 words

Late Edition - Final , Section A , Page 11 , Column 1

ABSTRACT - Government issues guidelines urging doctors and nurses to abandon ritual of washing their hands with soap and water between patients and instead rub on fast-drying alcohol gels to kill more germs; goal is to reduce spread of viruses and bacteria that infect estimated 2 million hospital patients in United States each year and kill about 90,000 (M)