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Health officials say the poor hygiene practices are what cause the invisible, deadly germs to be spread through a hospital, by patients, by visitors, and especially by doctors and nurses on their rounds.

They're spread "right there by your own doctor and your own nurse," Farr said. "On blood pressure cuffs, unwashed hands, **contaminated stethoscopes** and contaminated white coats as doctors and nurses walk from room to room."



Hospital-acquired infection is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, after heart disease, cancer and stroke.
(ABCNEWS)