BRIEF SUMMARY

[0009] ~~An aspect of the present technology provides~~ There is disclosed a sensor that is external to a hand hygiene product dispenser and that identifies actuations of the dispenser. Integration of the monitoring sensor into the internal workings of the dispenser is not required. Therefore a monitoring system including this sensor is not inherently tied to a specific dispenser or dispenser manufacturer. The present technology facilitates adoption of a monitoring system by avoiding the barrier to implementation of a monitoring system that is raised by the cost and effort of replacement of dispensing equipment and a potential change in hand hygiene product supplier.

[0009a] A first aspect of the present invention provides a method of identifying and reporting use of a hand hygiene product dispenser, the method comprising the steps of: providing a sensor from which a sensor field extends adjacent to the hand hygiene product dispenser; operating the sensor to sense activity in the sensor field; determining whether the sensed activity indicates use of the dispenser; communicating to a monitoring system an indication that the dispenser has been used.

[0009b] A second aspect of the present invention provides a monitor for identifying and reporting to a monitoring system use of a hand hygiene product dispenser, the monitor comprising: a case that is separate from the product dispenser; a sensor that is mounted to the case, that extends a sensor field from the case; processing components that receive communications from the sensor and that determine whether the communications from the sensor indicate use of the dispenser; and communication components connected to the processing

components, the communication components communicate with the monitoring system to report use of the dispenser.

[0010] ~~In one aspect of the present technology,~~ There is disclosed a sensor which has sensor field that encompasses a region that is adjacent to a section of the dispenser where an object is present when the dispenser is actuated and dispenses a product.

[0011] ~~An additional described aspect resides in~~ The present disclosure also relates to providing a sensor from which a sensor field extends to a region adjacent to a hand hygiene product dispenser in which the presence of an object is highly indicative of use of the dispenser.

[0012] ~~An additional described aspect resides in~~ The present disclosure also relates to determining that a hand hygiene event has occurred based on a sensor indication of an object within a sensor field and communicating that occurrence to a system that monitors use of dispensers.

[0013] ~~Yet an additional aspect of the present technology relates to~~ There is also disclosed a sensor that communicates with a monitoring system, that is positioned adjacent to a hand hygiene product dispenser and that is physically and functionally separate from the dispenser.