

Cleaning Conundrums

Quality products and stringent procedures go hand-in-hand

As Canadian health care institutions search for ever-effective ways to prevent and control nosocomial infections, innovative tools and practices are on the rise. Everything from anti-infection SWAT teams to germ-killing ultraviolet robots and novel antibiotic therapies are being investigated to find best practices and protect patients and staff.

Effective prevention of health care-associated infections can substantially reduce health-care costs by minimizing the length of hospital stays, morbidity and mortality associated with HAIs.¹ However,

not every hospital system has the ability to invest in the newest technologies or therapies so it's important not to lose sight of basic strategies that can also make a positive difference.

Enforcing stringent cleanliness requirements is a key element in infection prevention and control strategies. Quality products can help institutions achieve these requirements, so maintaining high standards for the procurement of cleaning supplies is also an important factor. Completely eradicating nosocomial infections is unrealistic, but rigorous cleaning practices are not.

Kruger Products works with health care organizations to understand their unique needs and provide the right mix of towel, tissue, wipes and dispensing products to meet their hygiene and business objectives. Premium products are more effective and do a better job of cleaning, while touchless dispensers can help control the spread of bacteria and minimize the risk of cross-contamination.

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To learn more about how Kruger Products can help enhance your facility's infection prevention and control plans, visit www.krugerproducts.com/afh or call 1-800-665-5610.

Facts that Impact

Did you know that in Canada

- HAIs are the 4th leading cause of death²
- Each year, an estimated 220,000 people acquire an infection while in hospital³
- 8,000 to 12,000 deaths each year are attributable to HAIs³
- 30-50% of HAIs are preventable⁴

The Ottawa Hospital recently launched its SWAT teams, which are rapid-response teams comprised of clinic, housekeeping and infection control staff. Their main objective is to oversee disinfection, de-cluttering and repair of areas when a *C. difficile* infection occurs. The hospital is hopeful this, in conjunction with its other infection control practices, will curb rates of outbreaks.

The Total Room Ultraviolet Disinfectant (TRU-D SmartUVC) is a mobile, automated germ-killing ultraviolet robot currently being used for the first time in Canada by the Vancouver General Hospital as part of a pilot project. After a staff member cleans a room, TRU-D floods the space with the appropriate amount of germicidal energy for a customized duration to eliminate infectious germs from contaminating surfaces.

² Statistics Canada. Ranking and numbers of deaths for the 10 leading causes of death, Canada 2000 and 2009.

³ Zoutman, DE, Ford DB, Bryce E et al; The state of infection surveillance and control in Canadian acute care hospitals; *American Journal of Infection Control*, 2003; 31: 266-73.

⁴ The Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance 2008.

