GOJO

HAND HYGIENE TIMES

Your resource for the latest news in effective infection control program development and best practices.

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Environmental Contamination: What you can't see, can hurt you.

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It's easy to promote good hand hygiene habits when hands are visibly soiled. But when teaching healthcare workers (HCWs) to clean their hands after contact with cosmetically clean environmental surfaces, that old cliché "Seeing is believing" puts us at a disadvantage. We can't see microbes in the environment, but there is plenty of evidence that they are there. Look at the table to the right listing some of the many sites where two common healthcare-associated pathogens, Clostridium difficile (C.difficile) and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) have been found.

Environmental contamination with C.difficile is of special concern because outside the colon, C. difficile survives in spore form. C. difficile spores have been known to persist in the environment for as long as five months.[1] In one study, C. difficile was found in the environment in 100% of rooms housing patients with C. difficile-associated disease (CDAD).[2] More concerning, C. difficile was found in 4 of 12 rooms of patients on the same ward who had no symptoms of CDAD.[2]

Although MRSA is not a spore forming organism, it has been shown to survive in a dry, room-air environment for 11 days on a plastic chart, and 9 days on a laminated tabletop and on a polyester cloth curtain.[3] Furthermore, environmental contamination occurs in the rooms of MRSA colonized patients who have no signs or symptoms of infection.[4]

Considering these findings, it is clear that HCWs can contaminate their hands indirectly by touching contaminated environmental surfaces without having direct contact with a patient. That's why good hand hygiene habits are important for protecting yourself as well as your patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), failure to perform appropriate hand hygiene is considered the leading cause of healthcare-associated infections and the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms.[5]

HCWs need to be compliant and clean their hands before and after contact with patients or surfaces in their immediate environment. The CDC recommends using alcohol-based hand sanitizer routinely if HCWs hands are not visibly soiled, and use soap and water if exposure to spores (e.g., C. difficile) is likely to have occurred. Neither alcohol-based hand sanitizer nor soaps kill spores but the mechanical action of handwashing helps to loosen the spores so they can be rinsed from the hands under running water.

Device/Surfaces	Clostridium difficile	MRSA
Bed frame/rails	X[f,i]	X[b]
Bed linens		X[b]
Bedside commodes	X[a]	
Bedside tables	X[f]	
Blood pressure cuffs		X[b]
Call buttons	X[f]	
Computer, desk top	X[d]	X[c]
Computer, portable	X[d]	X[e]
Door knobs	X[d,f]	X[b,g]
Electronic thermometers	X[a]	
Faucet handles		X[c]
Floors	X[i]	X[b]
Infusion pump buttons		X[b]
Linen hamper/trash bins		X[g]
Med carts	X[d]	
Medication bar scanners	X[d]	
Monitor touch pad		X[g]
Overbed tables		X[b]
Privacy curtains	X[h]	X[h]
Pulse oximeter finger probes	X[d]	
Scales	X[a]	
Telephones	X[d,f]	
Toilet seats	X[f]	
TV controls	X[a]	

a. APIC Guide to the Elimination of Clostridium difficile in Healthcare Settings. 2008
b. Boyce JM et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 1997;18:622-627.
c. Bures S et al. Am J Infect Control 2000;28:465-70.
d. Dumford DM et al. Am J Infect Control 2009;37:15-19.
e. Dunlop R et al. Am J Infect Control 2009;37:E25-E26
f. Eckstein BC et al. BMC Infectious Diseases 2007;7:61 Available from www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/7/61.
g. Goodman ER et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2008;29:593-599.
h. Trillis F et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2008;29:1074-1076.
i. Verity P et al. J Hosp Infect 2001;49:204-209.

1 Kim KH et al. J Infect Dis 1981:143:42-50.
2 Dubberke ER et al. Am J Infect Control 2007;35:315-318.
3 Huang R et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2006;237:1267-1269.
4 Boyce JM et al. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 1997;18:622-627.
5 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf

THAT'S a FACT!

2 in 5 American adults (nearly 92 million people) have hesitated to shake hands with someone because they are afraid of germs. 3 in 5 (61percent) Americans agree they would be less hesitant to shake hands if they had a bottle of hand sanitizer.[6]

6 http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2010/10/fear-of-germs-threatening-the-handshake.aspx

Product Feature

PURELL® AND PROVON® HAND HYGIENE SOLUTIONS

GOJO has led the healthcare industry in the development of innovative products focused on improving hand hygiene compliance and worked closely with infection preventionist and epidemiologists to understand infection control needs in a variety of clinical settings.

GOJO hand hygiene solutions can be customized to ensure hand hygiene options are available to healthcare workers (HCWs) to protect themselves as well as their patients. Specifically, GOJO offers PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizers and PROVON® Skin Care Products.

Purell®

PURELL INSTANT HAND SANITIZERS

PURELL Instant Hand Sanitizer is the #1 Doctor recommended hand sanitizer[1]. It is available in a variety of foam and gel solutions that help meet the needs of healthcare workers, patients and visitors. By making the PURELL brand visible helps a facility send the clear message that hand hygiene and infection control are important.

- **Kills 99.99% of most common germs** that may cause illness
- Available in convenient **easy to install** dispensers for placing product where it is most needed
- **Highly effective,** broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria
- Clinical studies demonstrated a **29.7%[2] and 36%[3] infection reductions** in a Nursing Home and Hospital setting respectively
- **Contains skin moisturizes** to help hydrate skin
- New PURELL Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer is an **environmentally responsible solution** to help build hand hygiene compliance

Description	Order Number	Case Pack	Uses Dispenser
PURELL Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer			
PURELL Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer Foam			
1200 ml TFX™ Refill	5391-02	2	2720-12
1200 ml FMX™ Refill	5191-03	3	5120-06
535 ml Bottle	5791-04	4	5700-06
PURELL Green Certified Instant Hand Sanitizer			
1200 ml TFX Refill	5491-04	4	2720-12
12 fl oz Bottle	3691-12	12	9005-12, 9007-12
8 fl oz Bottle	9691-12	12	
PURELL® Instant Hand Sanitizer Skin Nourishing Foam			
PURELL® TFX™ 1200ml refill	5398-02	2	2720-12
PURELL® FMX™ 1200ml refill	5198-03	3	5120-06
PURELL® 535ml counter top pump bottle	5798-04	4	
PURELL® 45ml pump bottle	5698-24	24	
PURREL Instant Hand Sanitizer Foam			
PURELL® TFX™ 1200ml refill	5392-02	2	2720-12
PURELL® FMX™ 1200ml refill	5192-03	3	5120-06
535ml counter top pump bottle	5792-04	4	
45ml pump bottle	5692-24	24	

PROVON®

PROVON SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

PROVON offers a wide range of antimicrobial and non-antimicrobial hand soaps, bathing and moisturizing products that help prevent the spread of infections, yet mild and gentle to the skin and helps build hand hygiene compliance. PROVON products and programs are tested in a variety of ways to ensure efficacy and clinical outcomes to ensure patient and HCW safety.

- **Dermatologist-tested**
- Hand wash products **encourage frequent hand washing** by HCWs
- Specially **formulated with moisturizers** for gentle and effective cleansing
- Offers a **full complement of patient skin care products** that cleanse and help maintain skin integrity

GOJO is committed to improving the health and well-being of patients and HCWs. With their skin science expertise, formulation expertise and dispensing development, GOJO focuses on improving hand hygiene compliance and patient outcomes. And now you can pass this expertise on to your customers.

Formulas	Order Number	Case Pack	Uses Dispenser
PROVON® Antimicrobial Handwash Products			
PROVON® Medicated Foam Handwash Advanced Moisturizers and Triclosan 1200mL TFX Touch Free Refill	5388-02	2	2745-12
PROVON® Foaming Medicated Handwash with Triclosan 1250mL FMX Refill	5188-03	3	5160-06
PROVON® Antimicrobial Skin Cleanser with 2% CHG 1200mL TFX Touch Free Refill	5306-04	4	2845-12
PROVON® Non-Antimicrobial Handwash Products			
PROVON® Green Certified Foam Hand Cleaner 1200mL TFX Touch Free Refill	5382-02	2	2745-12
PROVON® Luxorious Foam Handwash 1200mL TFX Touch Free Refill	5385-02	2	2745-12
PROVON® Foaming Handwash 1250mL FMX Refill	5185-03	3	5160-06

1. Based on a survey of over 400 medical doctors. Study conducted May 2008 by Bruno and Ridgway Research Associates, Inc.
2. Fendler EJ, Ali Y, Hammond BS. Lyons MK, Kelly MB, Vowell NA, Effects of alcohol hand sanitizer on infection control in an extended care facility. Am J Infect Control. 2002, 30:226-233.
3. The Use of Alcohol Hand Sanitizer as an Effective Infection Control Strategy in an Acute Care Facility. Hilburn J. Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners; Fendler EJ, Groziak PA, Hammond BS. Am J Infect Control. 2003, 31:109-116.

A Look Ahead

next month's issue

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