

Don't let the ones you can't see get away. Maintaining consistency with environmental cleaning.

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Introduction

Recent evidence has shown that the hospital environment plays a significant role in healthcare-associated infections. High touch areas (frequently touched by patients and healthcare workers) provide a reservoir for transmission of pathogens directly through the healthcare workers, hands and/or from the patient touching contaminated surfaces.¹ The hospital environment has been shown to be a contributing factor in the spread of healthcare-associated infections, with pathogens surviving days and months on surfaces.²

Cleaning by hand remains pivotal to breaking the chain of transmission. Nurses are responsible for cleaning the bed after discharge. The rehabilitation Infection Prevention Link Nurses observed inconsistent cleaning methods of patient beds after discharge. The Rehabilitation Ward consists of 22 beds with a mix of patients who may be colonised with a multi-resistant organism. The Link Nurses conducted a quality improvement project that aims to develop standardised cleaning methods using Clinell wipes.

Methods

Observational audits were first initiated by the Infection Prevention staff. The observational audits helped formulate the questions that were included on a paper survey that was conducted with rehabilitation staff. The survey contained questions relating to the staff perceptions and knowledge about cleaning. The topics included education conducted, type of cleaning agent they would use and how would it be done. 60% of the nursing staff were surveyed on these practices.

Results

Survey to understand cleaning perceptions with nurses in a rural rehabilitation ward. (N=17)

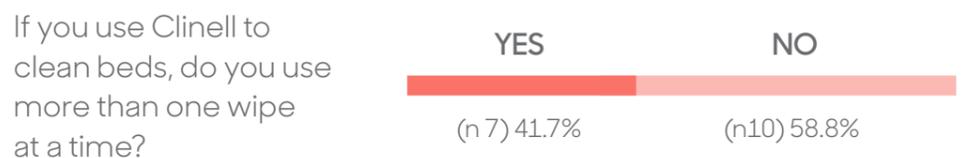
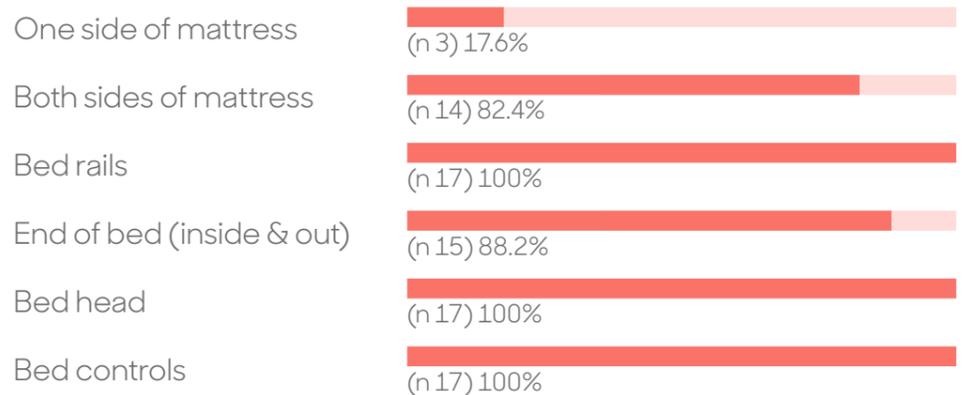


*0 participants chose detergent as an option

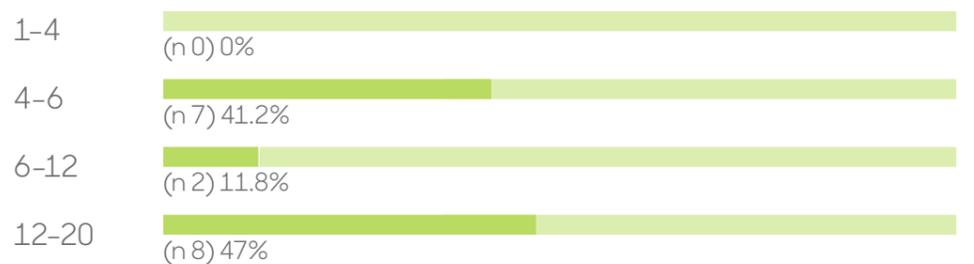
References

1. Weber, D.J., Anderson, D. & Rutala, W.A. (2013) The role of the surface environment in healthcare associated infection. American Journal of Infection Control 26 (5), 338-344
2. Mitchell, B., Russo, P., Keirnan, M., Curryer, C. (2021) Nurses and midwives' cleaning knowledge, attitudes and practices: An Australian study. Infection, Disease and Health 26 (1) 55-62

Please circle what you would wipe over when cleaning a bed:



How many wipes would you use to clean, approx.?



Discussion

From the ward survey performed it was clear there are various practices used in cleaning the beds after discharge. It was identified that the staff are needing more education on cleaning. Mitchell, B., et al. has mentioned that improving staff knowledge around product use and training have been shown to improve cleaning outcomes. The Rehabilitation Ward has both permanent and transient staff so methods of training that promotes consistency needed to occur. A poster that shows how and where to clean was designed using the product (Clinell) that is available within the ward.

The poster is to be used as a reminder and training resource for all staff throughout the hospital.

A post survey will be conducted to evaluate this quality improvement.

