



Are you up to date with your infection prevention operations?

*How changing your perspective on infection
prevention and control (IPC) can lead to long term
cost savings*

Changing the mindset of environmental disinfection

Environmental disinfection is complex, and several variables play equally important roles for the effectiveness of your efforts, regardless of the choice of equipment.

Such variables (denoted WASTE) include:

- Workforce
- Area
- Substance
- Technique
- Equipment

Many hospitals are often quick to cut costs on environmental disinfection, both in terms of training and on the technologies they use. The value of such investments is often overlooked to benefit from short term savings. Regardless of the

environmental disinfection solution, whether it being ozone, H2O2, UV-C or something else, hospitals cannot afford to neglect the fact that manual cleaning is a prerequisite for these technologies to perform their best.

***“It is important to realize that the best product, equipment, or intervention is worthless without well-trained, responsible and compliant staff”.*^[1]**

The real challenge is to change the mindset towards the costs associated with better IPC and realize that efforts needs to be done through the entire spectra of WASTE variables. The real value of IPC will not become evident without a complete re-evaluation of hospital operating procedures and novel technologies.



How do you assess the value and cost of infection prevention and control?

When choosing environmental hygiene operations, it would benefit hospitals to look at the costs of not doing so. The return on investment made in hand hygiene have shown to be up to 23 times higher than the initial investment.

Hospitals need to consider the averted expenditures and opportunity costs instead of the direct costs associated with IPC.

This also includes safeguarding workers health and limit their exposure to chemicals.

Small outbreaks could cost hospitals millions and the increased costs associated with antimicrobial resistance accounts for trillions € globally.

Hospitals need to invest in quality across the WASTE variables to benefit from long term cost savings and increased patient satisfaction.

“Prevention is always better and less expensive than a cure”^[2]



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[1],[2],[3]: Peters, A., Otter, J., Moldovan, A., Parneix, P., Voss, A., & Pittet, D. (2018). Keeping hospitals clean and safe without breaking the bank; summary of the healthcare cleaning forum 2018.

"In order to save money in the long-term and improve patient satisfaction, hospitals need to invest in quality across the board whether in materials, disinfectants, technological innovation, or the training, education, and certification of their workforce"^[3]