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July 2010

## **Extract from: Hygiene, Disinfection and Patient Experience in Hospitals Project**

### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Hospitals' policy on the use of hand hygiene should be re-examined so that the public can understand why they are required to use dispensers at the entrances / exits of some hospitals and not others.
- 6.2 If the point of contact with patients is most important place to use the hand gel then this should be made very clear in all hospitals.
- 6.3 Hospitals should be more open about the methods they use to measure hand hygiene compliance standard.
- 6.4 Bacterial populations, particularly of pathogens on computer equipment at nurses' stations, are a risk to patient health and should be eliminated by all possible means.
- 6.5 Greater emphasis should be placed on the very frequent cleaning of bathrooms and toilets especially the taps.
- 6.6 Alternatively taps which can be operated without hand contact should be installed.
- 6.7 Bedside tables and surfaces around beds that are used by patients should receive particular attention because they are likely to have the highest level of bacterial contamination.
- 6.8 Hospitals should supervise more closely the preparation of chlorine disinfectant solutions as there is clearly variation, which though not critical in most cases, could be in some.

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- 6.9 Consideration should be given to the disinfection of toilets as well as commodes. At present the policy is inconsistent.
- 6.10 Allowing nurses to leave the premises in their uniforms often to re-enter is inconsistent with a good hygiene policy. In order to set the best standard nurses and related staff should be seen to be minimising risk not maximising it.
- 6.11 A number of dirty areas are mentioned in this report. It is hoped that the hospitals concerned will recognise them and clean-up these.
- 6.12 Dirty public toilets were noted by number of observers. Hospitals should re-consider the cleaning frequency of these. For other comments and suggestions made by observers see Appendices 9 and 10.
- 6.13 This piece of work has produced a large amount of data and as part of a further study the relationship between the proportions of those using the alcohol dispensers and levels of contamination should be examined to see if the relationship is statistically significant.
- 6.14 The LINK should be recommended to repeat this work within a suitable interval, to be determined, as an additional measure to those already in place by NHS Trusts, to help further reassure the communities in Kent and Medway that their hospitals are safe places in which to receive care and treatment.

\*\*\*\*\* **End of Extract** \*\*\*\*\*