Environmental Cleaning in the Emergency Department

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Problem Identification

Emergency Departments (ED) have protocols in place for cleaning rooms vacated by patients in order to reduce the spread of infection. However, health care staff have only partially implemented protocols for environmental cleaning.

Literature Review

Infection Protection hand hygiene and environmental cleaning in the healthcare facility reduce spread of infection.

Sani wipes is effective against MRSA, VRE, Salmonella, E. Coli, Influenza A2, TB, Herpes Simplex Type 2, HIV-1, HBV, HCV and Staphylococcus aureus in 5 min or less.

Data Analysis

After discharge staff often forget to clean; or when they do clean they forget to clean the door knob. Other items missed are the telephone, call light, blood pressure cuff/cord, and the oximeter. The side rail is cleaned more than the other items.

Implementation

Present poster to Emergency Nurse Manager, Infection Protection Services, and Environmental services to raise awareness of environmental cleaning to reduce pathogen transmission.

Recommendations/Conclusion

A new disinfectant cleaner from Ecolab, OxyCide, is effective in reducing C-diff, MRSA, VRE, and MDROs. More research is needed.

An effective tool to measure cleanliness is a UV ray light however it expensive and takes time to clean efficiently.

Therefore, the most effect way would be the ATP bioluminescence that provide quick feedback to health care staff cleaner and use of products to clean.

Environmental cleaning is an essential component to reduce pathogen transmission.

References


Figure 1. Evaluating patient zone environmental cleaning. *Measures cleanliness at that moment but NOT the process of cleaning. (Carling, 2013)


Figure 3. Approximate High-touch equipment miss in the Emergency Department