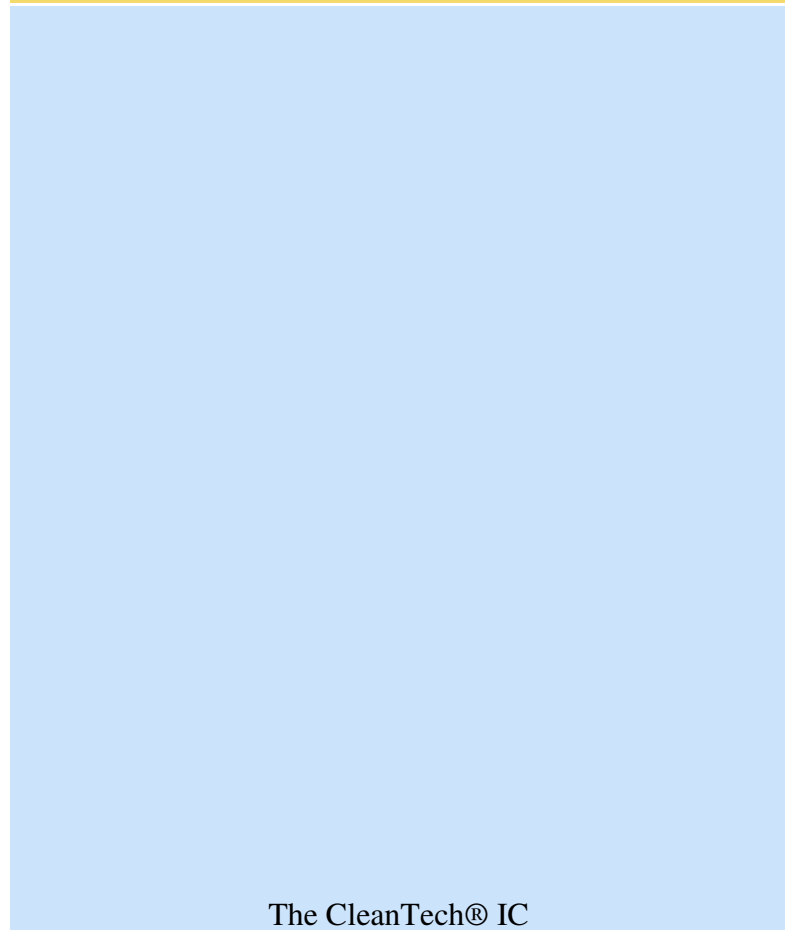




Featured Product	Focus on Policy
------------------	-----------------



Groups Tell EPA to Stop Widespread Uses of Anti-Bacterial Consumer Products

In comments to EPA on its new risk assessment and evaluation of the widely used anti-bacterial chemical triclosan, found in a wide range of products including soaps, toothpastes and personal care products, plastics, paints and clothing, public interest health and environmental groups point to health effects, environmental contamination and wildlife impacts and call for consumer uses to be halted.

Washington, DC, July 7, 2008 - In comments to be filed today with the Environmental Protection Agency, Beyond Pesticides, Food and Water Watch, Greenpeace US, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and dozens of

offers speed, efficacy and convenience in a touchless, 12 second handwash

Order your Cleantech IC today for an unbelievably low price:

\$1399 until August 31st

(\$1699 regular retail price)

[Read more about the Cleantech IC](#)

public health and environmental groups from the U.S. and Canada urge the agency to use its authority to cancel the non-medical uses of the antibacterial chemical triclosan, widely found in consumer products and shown to threaten health and the environment. The pesticide is found in a range of products from soaps, to toothpastes and personal care products, plastics, paints and clothing. Triclosan and its degradation products bioaccumulate in humans, is widely found in the nation's waterways, fish and aquatic organisms, and because of its proliferating uses, are linked to bacterial resistance, rendering triclosan and antibiotics ineffective for critical medical uses. The chemical and its degradates are also linked to endocrine disruption, cancer and dermal sensitization.

“The nonmedical uses of triclosan are frivolous and dangerous, creating serious direct health and environmental hazards and long-term health problems associated with the creation of resistant strains of bacteria,” said Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides. The American Medical Association (AMA) is on record questioning the efficacy of triclosan in consumer products, raising the question of whether the consumer uses are necessary and are doing more harm than good. The coalition of groups commenting today, in addition to the hazards cited, criticizes EPA for not completing an analysis of the impact of triclosan on endangered species and other

deficiencies in its review.

The EPA's public comment period for the reevaluation of triclosan, known as the reregistration eligibility decision (RED), closes today. The document releases EPA's risk assessment and its decision to allow triclosan's uses to continue and expand. EPA shares responsibility for regulating triclosan with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EPA has jurisdiction over treated textiles, paints and plastics and FDA is responsible for soaps, toothpaste, deodorants and antiseptics. The RED, however, is intended to assess the potential adverse effects across all uses.

In separate comments today, water utilities commented that triclosan and its degradation products are not cleaned out of the water treatment process and end up in sewage sludge, often referred to as biosolids. Research shows that earthworms take in triclosan residues, as do fish and aquatic organisms. Concerns have also been raised about residues in drinking water.

[Download the Press Release Here](#)

International Infection Control
News

Nurses Rated on Handwashing

England's Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced on June 18th at the annual conference of the NHS Confederation that he wants every nursing team in England to be scored on their compassion, standards of nutritional care, handwashing, and safety.

This new scoring system is part of the British Government's plan to improve quality in England's National Health System (NHS). This initiative is one of many that Prime Minister Gordon Brown has commissioned from the British Health Minister.

The Health Secretary said that he hopes that the performance evaluations will encourage friendly competition between nursing teams and therefore improve quality of healthcare.

[Read the article](#)

Ireland's Clean Your Hands Campaign

Northern Ireland's Health Minister Michael McGimpsey launched Ireland's "clean your hands" campaign saying, "Handwashing must become a habit that is integral to healthcare."

Ireland is taking a step toward infection control with their new campaign that will appear in hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the country.

Handwashing is known to be the single most effective way to combat healthcare associated infections, and Ireland's Health Minister recognizes this prevention effort. "By making hand hygiene a personal priority" he said, "each of us can play our part in making healthcare safer for all patients."

[Read the Article](#)

Infection Control News

Making Connecticut Safer: Two Hands at a Time

The state of Connecticut has not only passed legislation creating a Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections, but has also initiated a campaign that will focus on informing people about the reality of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) and how to prevent them by using simple techniques like hand washing.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health's Commissioner, Dr. J. Robert Galvin, recognizes the importance of public knowledge of HAIs and believes that through public reporting and an increased knowledge of the facts, the campaign can make a difference. "Close attention must be paid to adherence to proper infection prevention practices, including hand hygiene, avoidance of unnecessary invasive procedures, and the judicious use of antibiotics," Dr. Galvin says.

The campaign will begin to hand out resources to healthcare facilities across Connecticut in

hopes that the information on hand hygiene practices will help increase handwashing compliance, a problem among many healthcare professionals.

Abstract from the Department of Public Health's article, Making Connecticut Safer: Two Hands at a Time

[Read the Abstract](#)

Study: Disinfectant Gels No Match for Handwashing

[Read the full article](#)

Pro Athletes Contract MRSA

[Read the full article](#)

Feature Article

CMS Updates Payment Policies

On April 14, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a proposed rule that would update payment policies and rates under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2009, beginning for discharges on or after October 1, 2008.

CMS is proposing to select nine categories of hospital-acquired conditions for 2009 in addition to the eight selected one year ago. The 9 candidate conditions up for consideration include:

1. Surgical Site Infections Following Elective Procedure
2. Legionnaires' Disease
3. Glycemic Control
4. Iatrogenic Pneumothroax
5. Delirium
6. Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)
7. Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism (PE)
8. Staphylococcus aureus Septicemia
9. Clostridium difficile-Associated Disease (CDAD)

Payment implications will begin October 1, 2008, for any of the 9 candidate conditions that are selected in the IPPS FY 2009 final rule.

For more information, [visit the CMS website](#)

Germ Spotlight

Clostridium Difficile

Clostridium difficile (C. diff) is an intestinal bacterium that is becoming more common in healthcare settings and in the community

- The bacteria are found in the feces and are most often in spore form.
- Symptoms may include
 - watery diarrhea
 - fever
 - loss of appetite
 - nausea
 - abdominal pain/tenderness
- C. difficile is generally treated for 10 days with antibiotics prescribed by a healthcare provider.
- People who have other illnesses or conditions requiring prolonged use of antibiotics and the elderly are at greater risk of acquiring this disease.
- People can become infected by touching surfaces that are contaminated and then touching their mouth or mucous membranes.
- Healthcare workers can spread the bacteria to other patients or contaminate surfaces through hand contact.

[More Information on the CDC Website](#)

Feature Article

APIC Announces National Survey Results on the Efforts to Reduce MRSA

On June 17, at their national conference in Denver, APIC announced the results of a survey on the quality of efforts done to fight MRSA.

Seventy-six percent of Infection Preventionists answered that their institutions performed more cautionary actions in order to stop the spread of MRSA. However, only 54% of them said that they were doing as much as they should. Of those who heightened their MRSA-prevention efforts, 17% were able to add staff to help with infection control and 21% added better HAI surveillance technology. Those who felt like they should be doing more wanted additional staff, better surveillance, a stricter hand hygiene compliance, and more observance of cleaning procedures.

The survey asked if the healthcare facility had adopted any additional interventions to address the problem of MRSA, and of those who answered yes, 58% said that they added more aggressive hand hygiene programs. On the other hand, those who answered that new initiatives were in the works, 44% said they were planning on stricter hand hygiene programs. Keep in mind, if institutions answered that they hadn't increased their MRSA prevention efforts, it may be because they have already implemented a series of initiatives.

APIC guidelines for the elimination

of MRSA transmission include a risk assessment to identify high-risk areas for MRSA within the hospital; a surveillance program to identify MRSA cases; adherence to CDC hand hygiene guidelines; use of contact precautions (e.g., gloves, gowns and isolation); equipment cleaning and decontamination, especially items that are close to patients, and targeted testing of high-risk groups.

However, APIC reminds, this increase in efforts must continue in order to adequately combat MRSA and HAIs, and the reduction of these infections saves lives! APIC invites all to join in their “Targeting Zero” initiatives designed to bring healthcare associated infections to an irreducible minimum.

For more information, view the [APIC release](#)

Subscribe

Tips for Preventing Infection

[Resurgent Health &](#)

[Medical](#)

distributes a free bi-monthly informational and educational newsletter focused on hand hygiene in the healthcare industry, The Newsletter covers the latest information on hygiene compliance, legislation, equipment, and infection prevention.

Prevent the Spread of C. Difficile

Reports of patients infected with C. diff have been saturating the news. In light of the spread, keep these precautions in mind to stay safe:

- Correct handwashing is crucial. Wash your hands before and after all patient contact, before you put on gloves, and after you take them off. Alcohol-based sanitizers will not kill C. diff spores, so they must be washed off the hands with mechanical action.
- Wear gowns and masks when changing the contaminated linens.

Resurgent Health and Medical of Golden, Colo. is the leader in automated handwashing and sanitizing technology. For more information, please visit

www.resurgenthealth.com

- If possible, use disposable equipment and thoroughly clean all surfaces in the infected patient's room, and keep in mind that an overused wipe could actually be spreading the germs, not removing them.

- Educate all staff about C.diff, how it develops, how it is treated, and how to prevent the spread of infection.

CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES!

Resurgent Health and Medical
600 Corporate Circle Suite H
Golden, Colorado 80401

303-790-4670 or 1-800-932-7707

www.resurgenthealth.com

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to mcolbert@meritech.com by agarcia@meritech.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Meritech | 600 Corporate Circle | Suite H | Golden | CO | 80401