



Infection Control News by Resurgent Health and Medical

Vol.1 Issue 8-8

August 2008

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Feature Article

Chemical in Anti-Bacterial Soap Called "Toxic"

New studies show that Triclosan, a chemical found in most anti-bacterial soaps, some toothpaste, and many other household items may actually have more risks than benefits. According to a study by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a non-profit research organization, Triclosan is no better than soap and water, and its effects could be dangerous.

The study found no evidence linking Triclosan with the germ-killing ability it is marketed to have. Rather, a number of negative effects have been discovered. Triclosan has been linked to cancer in lab animals. Much of Europe has considered removing Triclosan from shelves due to its health and environmental risks. And more recently, the American Medical Association has even recommended not using it in the home.

The "toxic pesticide", as the EWG refers to it in their press release, has been linked to liver and inhalation toxicity, in addition to disruption in the thyroid hormone system which controls proper development, especially for brain growth in infancy. Triclosan was also found to break down into toxic chemicals, including a carcinogen called chloroform which is formed when Triclosan mixes with tap water that has elements of chlorine.

A recently published study by UC Davis found that "high levels [of Triclosan] in the body implicate the potential for the compounds to be considered as neurotoxins, the presence of which has recently been associated with increasing levels of autism."



[Study: Enormous Reduction in Disease from Hand Washing](#)
NST Online

See Resurgent in *Infection Control Today*



"Going Touchless is a High Tech Solution for Hand Hygiene Compliance"
by Kelly Pyrek

While handwashing compliance among healthcare workers (HCWs) and allied staff remains notoriously low in numerous hospitals, perhaps it's time to realize that their behavior as "civilians" when not on the the job may have a lot to do with it.

Recent surveys indicate that an alarming number of people don't wash their hands after using a public restroom.

In a recent

Since Triclosan does not break down properly, it has been found building up in the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency is now reviewing the chemical and has found that Triclosan's existence in streams and lakes has harmed aquatic and marine life.

There is also a growing concern that Triclosan is contributing to the bacterial resistance of antibiotics.

Beliefs shared by many, EWG Scientist Rebecca Sutton affirmed, "It's time to ban Triclosan from all personal care and household products."

Information from:

[Article 1- Antibacterial Agent No Better Than Soap & Water](#)

[Article 2- Study Shows Negative Effects of Antibacterial Products](#)

Clean Hands Save Lives DVD

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Safe Care Campaign recently launched a DVD called "Hand Hygiene Saves Lives." The focus is on hand hygiene and its importance in preventing infection. The DVD, which is designed to mimic an airline safety video, outlines the steps patients should go through to prevent infection and reminds them to remind their healthcare professional about hand hygiene.

"Our objective in developing this DVD is to encourage patients to take a more active role in their care by practicing good hand hygiene during a hospital stay and by reminding others -- especially their healthcare providers -- to do the same," said Dr. Jernigan, medical epidemiologist at the CDC who begins the DVD with an introduction to Hospital Acquired Infections.

To view the video, visit [the CDC website](#)

To view the press release, [click here](#)

Infection Control News

observational study sponsored by the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) and the Soap and Detergent Association (SDA), 77 percent of men and women washed their hands in public restrooms, a 6 percent decline from a similar study conducted in 2005.

[Read the full article here](#)

Special Promotion



Until Sept 30th

Receive free freight and a free case of soap with any equipment purchase.

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Germ Spotlight

Hygiene Policies Found to Reduce HAIs in Recent Survey

Materials Management in Health Care teamed up with APIC and the Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management in Health Care of the AHA to conduct an online survey to gather data on healthcare facilities' infection control practices and their policies regarding the prevention of HAIs. Survey responders selected the policies they had implemented regarding the prevention of HAIs and the outcome of those policies. Survey responders also provided steps involving hand hygiene they had taken in the last 3 years. The hospitals ranged from large cities to rural towns, with beds from under 50 to over 1,000.



Survey Highlights:

- When asked what steps the organization has taken to prevent HAIs, 92% of organizations answered "mandatory employee training on infection control and hand hygiene." As an outcome, "what changes have occurred as a result of your hospital's initiatives to prevent hospital-acquired infections?" The most selected answers were "changed policies" and "reduced HAIs".
- 83% answered that their organizations monitored and recorded adherence to hand hygiene by unit or service (e.g., visual observation, use of check sheets).
- The majority of facilities answered that they have achieved a 70% or higher hand hygiene compliance rate, both before and after patient contact.
- "Too busy/insufficient time", and "Hand hygiene agents cause irritation and dryness" were among the most selected challenges to adequate hand hygiene compliance.
- The most selected answers to "What changes have occurred as a result of your hospital's initiatives to prevent hospital-acquired infections?" were "changed policies" and "reduced HAIs".

[View the Survey](#)

Focus on Policy

CMS Final Rule: Three Infections Added to the "Never Events" List

On July 31 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released their final rule on 2009's Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS).

Last year, the organization adopted eight conditions that would no longer be reimbursed. This year, after





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SUPERBUGS

- Drug-resistant pathogens are a growing threat to all people, especially in healthcare settings.
- Each year, nearly 2 million patients in the United States get an infection in a hospital.
- Of those patients, about 90,000 die as a result of their infection.
- More than 70% of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the drugs most commonly used to treat them.
- Persons infected with drug-resistant organisms are more likely to have longer hospital stays and require treatment with second or third choice drugs that may be less effective, more toxic, and/or more expensive.

Risk factors that promote antimicrobial resistance in healthcare settings

considering nine and listening to feedback, three infections were added to the final ruling. They include: Manifestations of Poor Glycemic Control, Surgical Site Infections, and Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism (PE).

In their July 31 press release, CMS announced expectations these actions would attribute to the increased quality of healthcare in America, and stop these so called "never-events" from occurring. CMS hopes that this will encourage hospitals to improve their quality of care, and in turn, reduce the number of HAIs.

The organization also sent out letters to all the states encouraging them to adopt the no-payment rule for the same "never-events". Nearly 20 states have already adopted or are considering adopting the elimination of reimbursement for HAIs.

To read more, view the [CMS press release](#)

International Infection Control News

Ontario Begins Reporting Superbugs, Hand Hygiene Compliance to Follow

Beginning September 30th, Ontario hospitals will join Quebec and Manitoba hospitals in publicly reporting the number of cases of the superbug, C-diff. Ontario residents will be able to access the information on the government's website and on each hospital's website. "It is a disease that can be managed and controlled and reduced to the best of our ability," Dr. Baker, physician-in-chief of Toronto's University Health Network, said. This reporting will let officials and residents recognize the significance of the superbug problem, and hopefully the rates of HAIs will decrease.

In order to differentiate between community acquired and hospital acquired infections, a system must be set up to regulate when an infection is considered an HAI. Ontario's hospitals have decided to measure the infection based time - developing 72 hours or more after admission to the hospital, which would equate to a healthcare acquired infection. Therefore, data should be easy to collect and report.

Ontario's government isn't stopping with C-diff. The end of December brings the public reporting of MRSA cases, and by April 30 of next year hand hygiene compliance will begin to be monitored.



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include:

- Misuse or overuse of antibiotics
- Previous exposure
- Immune compromised
- The elderly
- Invasive procedures
- Underlying diseases or conditions

Who are these Superbugs?

- Clostridium difficile (C.Diff or CDAD)
- Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- Klebsiella pneumoniae

To Learn more about Superbugs [click here](#)

Please visit us at the ASHES Conference in San Antonio Sept. 8 & 9, booth 616.

Join Our Mailing List

[Read full article here](#)

Handwashing Message Important in Northern Trust

England's Northern Trust is beginning to make hand hygiene an even bigger priority. "People need to know that proper hand-washing has a vital role to play in controlling the spread of infection in hospitals," said Dr. Peter Flanagan, Medical Director with the Northern Trust.

Hospital visitors were asked if they wanted to see how clean their hands really were. By placing them in the UV boxes, the ultra-violet rays were able to show the volunteers the areas on their hands that were not washed properly. These boxes will soon be placed in all wards and departments at hospitals throughout the Northern Trust.

"The hand washing message is an important one and a good place to start in identifying and implementing good infection control practice," says Gillian Gale, Portfolio Manager with the Department of Health HCAI and Cleanliness Division in England.

The Northern Trust has created a few precautionary measures for hospital visitors, one of which includes handwashing both before and after the visit.

For more information, or for more precautions you can take, [click here](#)

Healthcare News

The Joint Commission Announces New Standard

The Joint Commission's Standards Improvement Initiative (SII) recent changes are effective as of January 1, 2009. Among the The Joint

Commission's goals: to clarify the language used and to make certain the standards are specific to each program (ambulatory care, critical access hospital, home care, hospital and office-based surgery programs). The Joint Commission's website lists the effects that these new improvements will have, including:

- Standards, rationales, and elements of performance will be easier for health care organizations to interpret and employ.
- Scoring will be simpler.
- The decision process will more accurately reflect organizational performance related to safety and quality of care.
- Manuals will be easier to navigate.

Visit [The Joint Commission website](#) for FAQs and overviews of the new improvements.





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About Us



Resurgent Health and Medical offers the only fully automated handwashing equipment for the healthcare industry.

Our systems wash, sanitize and rinse hands in a

Agency Creates First National Report on Quality of Healthcare

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed the first of what is to be an annual, all-inclusive report on the quality of healthcare in America. The National Healthcare Quality Report proposes broad measures for improving healthcare quality and reports data on the United States healthcare system. According to the AHRQ, "The primary role of the report is to provide the data and information that can tell us how the Nation's health care system is performing in terms of quality of care. The hope is that this information will be used to help focus efforts to change health care quality for the better. In this way, the report, as an ongoing tracking tool, will provide the foundation for the translation of research and evidence into action and practice."

[The AHRQ website](#) summarizes the report's key findings, including:

- High quality healthcare is not universal
- There is more to learn
- There is room for improvement

touch-free, 12 second
cycle, streamlining
your hand hygiene
program and
improving
compliance.

Please visit our website:
www.resurgenthealth.com