

## DAILY DISINFECTION OF HIGH-TOUCH SURFACES NEXT TO THE PATIENT REDUCES CONTAMINATION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS' HANDS

Study by Sirisha Kundrapu, Curtis Donskey and others (ICHE, 2012)

### Summary:

**Daily disinfection of high-touch surfaces in the rooms of patients with C diff and MRSA reduced the acquisition of the pathogens on the hands of those caring for the patients.**

This is a prospective, randomised, non-blinded trial of standard cleaning versus daily disinfection in a 215 bed hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Standard cleaning involves dusting and wiping with a cloth. High-touch surfaces are only cleaned if they are visibly soiled.

Daily disinfection involves the daily cleaning/disinfection of bed rails, bedside table, call button, telephone, chair, wall-mounted medical equipment, IV stand, door handles, toilet rail and toilet seat.

The rooms of 70 patients with either C diff or MRSA were randomised to either standard cleaning with a neutral detergent or daily disinfection with a sporicide. The study lasted 7 days.

The authors found that daily disinfection of high-touch surfaces took at least 20 minutes per day.

They suggest that daily disinfection of high-touch surfaces next to the patient in isolation rooms may address an important source of healthcare worker hand contamination. In other words, the HANDS and ENVIRONMENT are linked.