

RISK OF ORGANISM ACQUISITION HIGHER FROM PRIOR OCCUPANTS WHO HAD AN INFECTION

Review by Brett Mitchell, Stephanie Dancer and others (JHI, 2015)

Summary:

Admission to a room previously occupied by a patient infected with a specific pathogen increases the risk of the next occupant becoming infected with that pathogen.

Meta-analysis and powerful data review of six articles related to the topic of “prior room occupancy and risk of acquisition.” The combined data overwhelmingly indicated an increased risk of acquisition.

MRSA can survive for 7 months, C diff spores can survive for 5 months, VRE can survive for 4 months, Acinetobacter can survive for 5 months, and Pseudomonas can survive for 16 months on dry, inanimate surfaces.

For Environmental Services, this review suggests that current cleaning methods fail to reduce the risk of pathogen acquisition.

There is a need for a renewed interest and emphasis on hospital cleaning.

Methods to enhance cleaning may include:

- Microfibre
- Antimicrobial surfaces and plastics
- UV light fixtures
- Electrolysed water