

## ACQUISITION OF SPORES ON HANDS AFTER SKIN CONTACT WITH C. DIFF PATIENTS AND CONTACT WITH THE SURFACES IN THEIR ROOMS

Study by Dubert Guerrero, Curtis Donskey and others (AJIC, 2012)

### Summary:

**If you touch the surfaces next to a patient with C diff infection, you acquire the same amount of spores as when you touch their skin.**

This is a prospective study of 30 patients with Clostridium difficile infection in several hospitals in Ohio, USA.

The authors found that high-touch environmental surfaces (HTES) next to the patient such as bed rails, bedside tables, telephones and call buttons were exactly the same at C diff spore transmission as the patient's skin, namely the arm, abdomen, chest, hand, and groin.

The authors found that during the course of the study, high-touch surfaces next to the patient were not cleaned on a daily basis unless they were visibly soiled.

The findings are consistent with other evidence – that HANDS and the ENVIRONMENT are both key to pathogen transmission. Basically, healthcare workers are just as likely to contaminate their hands after touching a high-touch surface near the patient as after touching the infected patient.