BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

Healthcare facility managers minimize infection transmission for staff, patients, and visitors. Regulations, risk of infection, and liability mean that healthcare facilities are held to a higher standard of cleanliness.

HIGH-TOUCH AREAS AND SURFACES. These need to be cleaned, disinfected, and/or sanitized frequently.

AREAS
- Patent Waiting Rooms
- Patient Bed Handrails
- Patient Rehab Equipment
- Restrooms

SURFACES
- Door Handles
- Elevator Buttons
- Remote Controls
- Phones & Keyboards

1 **IDENTIFY THE MATERIALS NEEDED.** Determine what product is needed and what equipment or materials you need to properly clean, disinfect, and protect. Facility managers must find the balance between efficacy and surface compatibility to protect against surface damage.

2 **GLOVE USAGE.** Improper use of gloves can spread HAI-causing bacteria and put patients and staff at risk. To limit the spread, use gloves properly.
- Use different glove types for different tasks (routine maintenance, working in patient care rooms, dealing with heavily soiled items, etc)
- Always change gloves between patients
- Never wear gloves in hallways; this prevents the spread of bacteria from one area to another
- Wash your hands after removing your gloves

3 **AVOID CROSS-CONTAMINATION.** Cross-contamination can happen when HAI-causing bacteria travels from one location to another via cleaning equipment/tools or clothing. To minimize the changes of cross-contamination, it's best to work from cleaner areas to dirtier ones, or rooms that house less infectious patients to more infectious ones.

4 **DISPOSE OF CONTAMINATED MATERIALS CORRECTLY.** Minimize the transmission of microbes to the air and prevent re-contamination when disposing of linens, cleaning materials, or medical equipment.
- Roll linens away from the body
- Place – do not throw – disposable items in trash receptacles
- Seal garbage bags without releasing extra air

5 **MAINTAIN A CLEANING AND DISINFECTION SCHEDULE.** Continue routine cleaning and disinfection, especially in the high touch areas noted above. Track cleaning and disinfection in an easy to access place in case this information is needed for reference or auditing.

> **According to the CDC, 1 out of every 31 hospital patients contracts a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) on any given day.**