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21 Feb 2010

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PAS 5748: Cleanliness in healthcare facilities - Hospitals - Specification (PAS)

It would be useful for everyone to be able to clearly identify what has been cleaned, particularly items of furniture and equipment around the patient as these are the areas that are most likely to contain harmful bacteria and pathogens from touch contact. After each patient use, and in the incidence of contamination due to sickness or diarrhoea for example, it would be reassuring for patients and staff to know the area has been decontaminated, including as previously mentioned the use of Adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP) testing. To achieve this it would be useful to tag equipment with the date of the cleaning, this should marry with the date the previous patient left the bed, or when the cleaning was next scheduled. This would greatly aid audits.

A documented procedure for conducting managerial audits shall be produced. It shall define the frequency with which, and locations in which, managerial audits are to be conducted. The procedure should include an easily identifiable tagging system for the decontamination of furniture and equipment, clearly visible to staff, managers and patients.

21 Feb 2010

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PAS 5748: Cleanliness in healthcare facilities - Hospitals - Specification (PAS)

It is concerning that the cleanliness criteria deals only with the visual appearance of being free of dirt and stains. There are organisms that can be present in the environment without being seen. For example, Clostridium difficile spores, Norovirus, Staphylococcus. Adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP) testing equipment can be used to examine equipment and furniture, particularly places that are touched frequently. There is no mention of the use of this technology anywhere in the cleaning specification.

An element shall be identified as clean if all parts of the element have the visual appearance of being free of dirt and stains, and where a patient has been identified as having an infection or where there has been environmental contamination from bodily fluids or waste, Adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP) testing is carried out to ensure contaminants are removed from the environment.

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