

SAINT FRANCIS HEALTHCARE ACHIEVES HIGH RATINGS FOR INFECTION PREVENTION

February 17, 2017 - WILMINGTON, Del.— Saint Francis Healthcare has received accolades from prominent healthcare sources for its dramatic reduction in the number of hospital-acquired conditions (HACs) over the past year.

The hospital was lauded on the Kaiser Health News website in November 2016 for having zero catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections or MRSA in the intensive care unit as well as one of the lowest *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) rates in the state of Delaware.

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In its January issue, *Consumer Reports* gave Saint Francis Health the highest ratings for the system's drastic reduction in central line-associated bloodstream infections.

Every year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes a list of hospitals across the U.S. with the worst rates of HACs based on six quality measures. Saint Francis Healthcare was not cited on the CMS list in 2015, 2016 and 2017. According to *Becker's Hospital Review*, 769 other hospitals in the U.S. made the list in 2017 and will have 1% of their Medicare payments cut.

To achieve success, Saint Francis Health's infection prevention team revamped its protocols and worked closely with its environmental services department, the first line of defense against HACs.

The infection prevention team targeted the stubborn bug using a novel cleaning system that mists an entire room with ionized hydrogen peroxide (iHP™).

According to the Infection Prevention Director, Helene M. Paxton, PhD, CIC, the *C. diff* bacteria has a 30%-50% chance of infecting other people if not properly cleaned. The infection prevention team targeted the stubborn bug using a system that mists an entire room with activated peroxide OH ions. The system kills bacteria on contact and leaves no residue.

"Recent evidence in Delaware hospitals has seen a marked reduction of *C. diff* with the use of a non-wipe, ionized hydrogen peroxide based system."

"These devices ... will actually reduce the transmission of these organisms remaining on surfaces or hard to reach areas as seen with spray-and-wipe techniques," Paxton wrote in a blog. "Recent evidence in Delaware hospitals has seen a marked reduction of *C. diff* with the use of a non-wipe, activated peroxide-based system."

The infection prevention team replaced old linen curtains in its facilities with disposable curtains that contain disinfectant to prevent visitors or hospital staff from contaminating them. The team also implemented insertion and daily care bundles, a series of steps that everyone involved in patient care at Saint Francis Health takes to prevent central line-associated bloodstream infections and catheter-associated urinary tract infections.

SteraMist™ BIT™ Solution has Efficacy Against *Clostridium difficile* spores!

CDI Costs to Hospitals, in Addition to Loss of Life:

- Costs include up to \$8.2 billion in aggregated annual costs for hospital care of patients with CDI
- The average cost per hospital stay for patients with CDI is \$24,400, more than triple the cost (~\$8,000) for other patients
- On average, CDI increases hospital stays by 3.3 days



How to Fight the Transference of CDI:

- Wash hands
- Implement enhanced contact precautions upon symptoms
- Use EPA registered products, such as SteraMist™ with its patented EPA Registered BIT™ Solution, for disinfection protocols to reduce its spread

EPA publishes LIST K: EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective against *Clostridium difficile* spores

Use of Novel Approaches to Reduce *C. Difficile* in an Inner City Hospital

*Published by InfectionControl.tips**

Field Study of *C.diff* rates with addition of SteraMist™ to Acute Care and Critical Access Hospital

Hospital Acquired *C.diff* infections:

Number of Cases	16	11	11	1
Year	2015	2016	2017	Through May 30, 2018

The use of iHP™ in combination with the active isolation, antimicrobial interventions and disinfectant containing curtains has greatly reduced the hospital's *C. diff* burden. By moving to stricter isolation protocols and incorporating iHP™ into cleaning protocols, this hospital has been able to stabilize their CDI events even with using increasingly sensitive detection methods and increasing CDI CO-prevalence.

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Use of Novel Approaches to Reduce *C. Difficile* in an Inner City Hospital
By: Dr. Helene Paxton, MS, MT (ASCP), PhD, CIC, Infection Preventionist, Bio Guidance, LLC.

TOMI™ Environmental Solutions, Inc. | East Coast Office | 5111 Pegasus Court, Suite A | Frederick, MD 21704
info@tomist.com | 800.525.1698 | www.tomist.com

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