

Hand hygiene the focus of Westminster debate

Hand hygiene and infection prevention is now a top priority on the Government's agenda, after a recent Westminster debate addressed the key infection prevention issues within healthcare settings.

These included the use of electronic monitoring systems to measure hand hygiene compliance and reduce infection rates.

All parties present addressed the flaws of direct observation and the impact that capturing inaccurate hand hygiene data has on patients and the NHS. It also focused on how technology can improve hand hygiene compliance and what actions need to be taken to reduce costs and increase patient safety within the NHS.

Andrea Jenkyns, MP for Morley and Outwood, played a key role in the debate as she continues to actively campaign to improve hand

hygiene ever since losing her dad to an MRSA in 2011.

She stated: "It is important that this debate draws attention to the fact that the current system of hand hygiene monitoring in hospitals needs updating and is inaccurate and outdated. There are better monitoring systems out there. The current system allows poor hand hygiene practice to spread and can put patients' lives at risk."

MPs Jim Shannon and Nigel Mills, and Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care, Justin Madders, recognised the need for a change in the way that hand hygiene is measured.

Justin Madders said: "Staff naturally wash their hands much more frequently when being observed directly, which results in clearly overstated compliance rates of 90% to 100%. Academic research has

found that typical compliance is actually between 18% and 40%."

Steven Barclay, Minister of State for the Department of Health and Social Care, acknowledged the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce infection rates and save money.

As a result of the debate, there emerged a clear consensus from all sides of the house that hand hygiene is an important issue, direct observation is not an appropriate means of monitoring hand hygiene compliance, whilst technology offers a clear way of improving compliance and reducing infections.

John Hines, director of research and development at **Deb**, said: "The debate proved a huge success and it was great to see MPs and Health Ministers joining forces to ensure infection prevention remains high on the Government's list of priorities.

"Technology, if adopted in the right way, creates an opportunity to improve patient safety and reduce the £1bn cost associated with healthcare associated infections. Now it's time to take further action by working closely with the Government to ensure more hospitals are aware of the benefits of electronic monitoring systems. We want to see such systems replacing direct observation audits, freeing nurses time and paving the way for a safer NHS."

Tel: 01773 855100



Antimicrobial latex examination glove

Symphony Environmental Technologies, a global specialist in products and technologies that "make plastic smarter", has launched what it describes as the first latex antimicrobial examination glove made with d2p technology.

Symphony is working with Health & Hygiene, a British company and Biomax Rubber Industries of Malaysia. Biomax Rubber Industries is one of the fastest growing manufacturers of latex examination gloves in Malaysia and produces more than 1 billion gloves per year, certified to ISO-9001 and product certifications of ISO-13485 and CE Marking as Class I Medical Device confirming European conformity.

Health & Hygiene are incorporated in the UK and have been working with Symphony for some time on several projects. The antimicrobial examination gloves will be sold under the new registered 'Protector Health & Hygiene' brand.

The gloves are the first product launched in what will be a range of antimicrobial disposable healthcare products including face masks, caps

containing d2p technology.

The gloves are designed to appeal to the healthcare and food-preparation industries, where hygiene is a priority. d2p antimicrobial technology provides complete protection throughout the life of the glove by disrupting and deactivating key molecules within the bacterial cell, preventing cell replication and infection.

Health & Hygiene and Biomax Rubber Industries are exclusively incorporating the d2p technology, and offering 99.99% efficacy in accordance with ISO 22196 and ASTM E2180 against commonly occurring organisms including MRSA and Salmonella.

www.d2p.net
www.symphonyenvironmental.com
Tel: 020 8207 5900



Cleaning Matters-July 1, 2018

Trolley and Steam Mop

The Janitorial Steam System from **Duplex Cleaning Machines** comprises a powerful steam cleaner called a Jet Steam Professional, Janitorial Trolley and Steam Mop supplied as one for a convenient cleaning solution.

The Jet Steam Professional is a robust and efficient continuous flow machine which means that there is no downtime for refilling as this model has a boiler and a reserve tank eliminating the need to de-pressurise to re-fill and lose valuable cleaning time.

It is supplied with a comprehensive kit of tools and accessories which can be stored in the handy containers of the trolley which makes transporting the

entire system from place to place both quick and easy.

The steam mop is a powerful tool combining cleaning with infection control so is suitable for environments where hygiene is a priority.

Duplex's range of steam cleaners offers premium quality technology. Their robust manufacture and innovative design is based on extensive work with people who have demanding commercial applications.

The company carries out free, on-site, no obligation demonstrations throughout the UK so that you can see for yourself how the Janitorial Steam System could fit into your busy cleaning



schedule thus saving you time and energy.

Tel: 01227 771276