

Easy to clean equipment is ally in hospitals' surface contamination battle

Philips Sparq ultrasound system is designed for easy cleaning featuring a sealed touch interface

Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) are a hidden danger in hospitals

According to a study cited by the WHO (World Health Organization) in their practical guide, "Prevention of hospital-acquired infections," over 1.4 million people worldwide suffer from HAI at any given time.¹ WHO estimates that of every 100 hospitalized patients, 7 in developed and 10 in developing countries will acquire at least one healthcare-associated infection during their hospital stay.² In England, more than 300,000 hospitalized patients acquire an HAI every year.³ In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that each year, one out of every 20 hospitalized patients in the US will contract an HAI.⁴

Concern continues to grow – along with antibiotic-resistant "superbugs"

As hospitals evolve and establish procedures to reduce contamination, bacteria also continue to evolve. In the United States, the CDC recently issued a call to action regarding carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CRE). Not only has this bacteria become resistant to carbapenem antibiotics, but it can transfer that resistance to other bacteria within the enterobacteriaceae family. CREs are deadly, killing up to half of the patients who develop CRE bloodstream infections. They are just one example of the increasing threat posed by antibiotic-resistant "superbugs."⁶



Typical hospital contamination levels

- **75%** of patient rooms are contaminated with methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- **69%** of patients are contaminated with vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE)
- **42%** of hospital personnel who touched contaminated surfaces became contaminated themselves, even in the absence of patient contact.⁵

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