

# Getting the (Red) Dirt Out: A Review of BC's Environmental Cleaning Guidelines



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IPAC-Canada Conference  
June 18, 2017

# CME Disclosure

- Bruce Gamage is the Network Director of the Provincial Infection Control Network of BC, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority of BC.
- His salary is supported by the Provincial Health Services Authority. He has received no other funding for information he will be presenting.

# Objectives



- Review the development of BC's environmental cleaning guidelines
- Discuss the roll out of the guidelines
- Discuss operational issues driving regional practice.

# Background

- BC's environmental cleaning guidelines were officially released in October 2016
- Document was adapted by PICNet and the BC Environmental Cleaning Working Group with permission from Public Health Ontario and PIDAC-IPC
- Was a 4 year process!!



# Scope of guidelines



- Document targeted to everyone who has a role in the cleaning and disinfection of the environment and of non-critical medical equipment
- Practices are applicable in all settings where care is provided
- Healthcare settings and programs should work towards these best practices in an effort to improve quality of care.

# Provincial Policy (October 2016)

- Protects the health and safety of patients and care providers in BC by **ensuring provincial consistency of environmental cleaning practices** for the prevention and control of HAI.
- Policy applies to all health authority programs and facilities in BC.
- Includes private or non-profit facilities and/or providers that are supplying publicly-funded services under contract to health authorities.

## Policy Cont.



- Health authorities shall implement all “Phase One” recommendations of the environmental cleaning best practices
- Health authorities are encouraged to implement “Phase Two” and “Phase Three” recommendations, as appropriate.

# Recommendations

- Guidelines contain 76 recommendations
- Phase One requires implementation of 37 of those
- Ministry negotiated with the health authorities and agreed on these recommendations as “phase one”
- Documents is available at:  
<https://www.picnet.ca/guidelines/environmental-cleaning/>







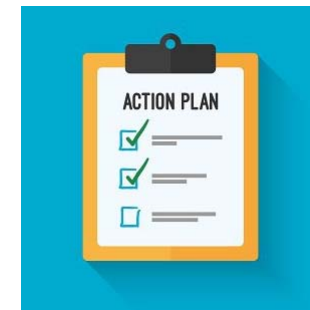
# Implementation of Recommendations

- Health authorities shall implement all 'Phase One' Best Practices recommendations **by January 31, 2018**



# Implementation Planning

- **On or before December 30, 2016**, health authorities were required to provide the Ministry of Health with action plans to confirm implementation details of all Phase One recommendations.
- Action plans included accountabilities and timelines for all deliverables.



# Implementation Plans

- Originally planned to collaborate between health authorities and submit a combined plan
- This was deemed undoable because of variation between health authorities and different stages of implementing recommendations



# Quality Assurance (third party audits)

- Health authorities shall assess the quality of environmental cleaning services by completing standardized, independent, unannounced, third-party audits in all health care facilities on (at minimum) an annual basis.
  - Audits shall include a statistically representative sample of all rooms and risk levels within facilities and/or care settings.
  - Results of cleaning audits shall be analyzed on an ongoing basis. Health authorities shall work to remediate identified issues, as appropriate.



# Public Reporting of Audits

- Health authorities shall promote public, patient, clinician and staff awareness of environmental cleaning service quality by posting audit results for all sites on the PICNet website.
  - At a minimum, environmental cleaning audit results shall be publicly reported once per year.
  - At a minimum, audit results shall be reported per facility.
  - Audit results and supporting information shall be provided in plain language suitable for lay audiences.
  - Health authorities should post current environmental cleaning audit results within the main entrance areas of all health care facilities.
- Report posted January 2017:  
<https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/Westech-independent-housekeeping-audit-2016.pdf>



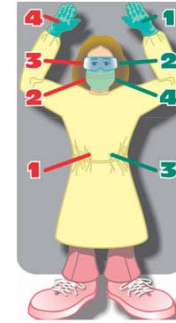
**cleaning audit systems**  
*the standard that makes the difference*

# Challenges and Conundrums of Implementing Recommendations

- Clean Supply rooms/areas should:
  - Contain a work counter and **a dedicated hand washing sink** if used for preparing patient care items, but placed in a manner to prevent splash onto clean supplies;
- Soiled utility rooms/workrooms should:
  - Contain **a dedicated hand washing sink**
  - If **environmental services are contracted out**, the Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety policies of the contracting services should be consistent with the facility's policies.



## Cont.



- Environmental Services staff should follow best practices for **hand hygiene**
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be:
  - **removed immediately after the task** for which it is worn
- There should be a third party independent **visual assessment** completed annually in hospitals and residential facilities.



## And finally...



- Infection Prevention and Control, Environmental Services, and Occupational Health and Safety **should be consulted before making any changes to cleaning and disinfection procedures and technologies** in the healthcare setting.
- There is still inconsistent practice and variation between health authorities and BCSS...



# Questions??

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