

Sample Quality Improvement Projects from the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program

Topic: Adequacy of the Use of Disinfection Wipes for Stretchers and Procedure Room Surfaces

Define: The organization reviewed the adequacy of the use of Brand A wipes in the contact cleaning of stretchers and procedure room surfaces between cases. The gap in quality of care that was discovered was that *Clostridium difficile* is not decontaminated by the chemical components in Brand A. The project goal is to find and use a product for wiping down stretchers and room surfaces that will adequately kill all the microorganisms that Brand A wipes handles and in addition covers *Clostridium difficile* which is a microorganism that is found in endoscopy patients.

Measure: The performance of Brand A wipes does kill multiple microorganisms but the fact that it does not kill *Clostridium difficile* could potentially cause cross contamination of patients and employees due to lack of adequate decontamination.

The data used was obtained by accessing The Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology guidelines for prevention of *Clostridium difficile* and the Brand A wipes product information. The performance goal is to kill all known pathogenic microorganisms on surfaces that could be contacted by patients and staff, especially stretchers and tables and counters that are holding equipment and supplies used in patient care.

Analyze: The gap in quality of this process was in the false understanding that Brand A was effective in treating all forms of contamination found in endoscopic procedures. Since Brand A wipes are commonly used in many and varied types of organizations for decontamination, it was not realized until close reading of the labels and follow-up with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the use of a wipe that contains sodium hypochlorite as its active ingredient is an effective way of decontaminating surfaces that are potentially contaminated with *Clostridium difficile*.

Improve Performance: The organization tried several solutions to this problem and eventually found a wipe similar to Brand A wipes with a main active ingredient of sodium hypochlorite. A hospital cleaner wipe system called Brand B was purchased by its manufacturer. This item was immediately purchased and put into use in our center.

Control Summary: The outcome of this project was that the organization was not adequately decontaminating surfaces and stretchers to assure that there was no cross contamination with *Clostridium difficile*. The goal of the project was to find a product that would provide adequate decontamination against all common contaminants including *Clostridium difficile*. After appropriate research the organization arrived at a wipe product called Brand B. The organization now uses Brand B wipes which contains sodium hypochlorite and follows with Brand A wipes to assure complete decontamination of all surfaces contacted by patients and staff. This solution to a very difficult problem is easy for any organization to adopt and we believe is definitely a best practice in surface decontamination in the endoscopy suite.