

## Simpler, faster disinfection

TECcare has designed two specialist misting systems, 'ideal' for terminal cleans, that 'provide rapid, safe, and effective, total room disinfection at an affordable price'.

The TECcare VorTEC is a mains-powered, high energy misting system for decontaminating rooms up to 400 m<sup>3</sup>, using either VorTEC or VorTEC Plus disinfectant technology fluid. Both fluids continue working long after application, offer broad spectrum disinfection, and are effective against *Clostridium difficile* spores. VorTEC Plus achieves >log 6 reduction in *C. difficile* spores within one minute.

The TECcare Control system is available in 250 mL and 450 mL variants, with room misting capacities of 30 m<sup>3</sup> and 50 m<sup>3</sup>. A self-propelling, compact, portable, single-use aerosol which emits a broad spectrum disinfectant mist, it is 'ideal' for rapid decontamination of smaller rooms, vehicles, and areas with no mains power supply etc.



### Radiators guarded

A study at a South of England hospital commissioned by low surface temperature (LST) radiator guard specialist, Contour Casings, has compared the levels and diversity of bacteria present on modern LST radiator covers with full access for cleaning, and an antimicrobial coating, with those on a 'traditional' fixed unit, with no internal access, and no antimicrobial protection.

Contour Casings explained: "All modern, treated, full access LST radiator guards displayed a significant reduction in microorganisms. When considering all internal surfaces, modern and treated, there was a 91 per cent mean reduction in microbe loading." Analysis of all external and internal surfaces of the radiator guards showed an 86 per cent mean reduction.

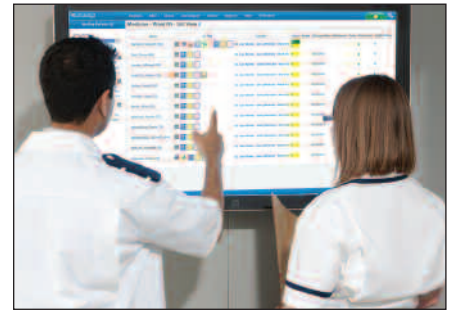
## Patient tracking simplified

No matter how efficiently hospital staff implement infection control protocols, identifying the source of an infection can be complex, and 'take days'.

Point-of-care software specialist, Hospedia, says that "until 'patient zero' has been identified, it is impossible to track the infection's journey through the hospital".

In a detailed Deloitte analysis, Hospedia's ExtraMed Patient Flow Management System has been estimated to offer Trust benefits of up to £884,000 annually by preventing infection outbreaks, and supporting infection control processes during outbreaks.

Extrameds stores and shares real-time patient information across all departments, making it fast and easy to track a patient's 'journey', and identify the high-risk patients with whom they have had direct contact.



The system works with the interactive whiteboards updated in real-time by nursing and medical staff, with a patient with an infection highlighted in yellow, and the infection control team can then quickly identify likely transmission points on screen, "isolating beds associated with infection, and identifying 'patient zero'."

## Cylinder management products

Medical Gas Services says its ABI (Anti Bacterial Impregnated) cylinder management range – of cylinder cradles and trolleys – has proven 'very popular' since its January 2013 launch, and, 'in celebration', is offering '20 per cent off' across the whole ABI range for the rest of February.

The company said: "The impregnation of the anti-bacterial properties within the product, rather than via a coating, means that the protection will last for the products' lifetime."



"Our cylinder cradles are moulded so that the content in the mix gives 100 per cent protection even if damaged and chipped away. Their robust construction ensures superior protection for the medical gas cylinders."

"Our ABI trolleys, meanwhile, boast a triple painting procedure to ensure that the anti-bacterial content is fully impregnated and constant throughout the product. These trolleys are utilised within the wards and departments, and we offer F/HX, G, and four-wheeled J-sized versions."

## Ductwork dirt and dust dispelled

Polegate, Sussex-headquartered System Hygienics is a specialist in cleaning ventilation and kitchen extract ductwork.

MD, Steve Liddiard, said: "To control the spread of infections such as MRSA, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Clostridium difficile*, in hospitals, the internal surfaces of ventilation ductwork must be regularly and thoroughly cleaned. Our Jetvent powervac system is a remote cleaning method that employs compressed air and a powerful filtered vacuum to access and clean areas normally out of reach. We give hospitals post-cleaning reports incorporating 'before and after' photographs, certifications of analysis

from microbiological samples, and a certification of cleanliness to confirm that their ductwork systems have been cleaned in accordance with the B&ES TR/19 standard, and HTM 03-01 – *Specialised Ventilation in Healthcare Premises*.



## Decontamination skills developed

Eastwood Park's new training calendar for 2014-2015 includes three new City & Guilds nationally-recognised qualifications to assist staff development for those working in the area of decontamination.

These are:

- The Certificate in decontaminating medical devices (L3) – securing this qualification will help personnel 'gain an understanding of the validation process, and decontaminate instruments safely and efficiently'.
- The Diploma in healthcare support services (decontamination) (L3) – designed to enable staff to progress to a more advanced level, and achieve the Diploma.
- The Certificate in dental decontamination (L3) – a 'new pathway' relevant to all dental nurses, dental technicians, and assistants.

Eastwood Park explained: "These are work-based qualifications, which means no time spent training away from the workplace."

In addition, for Authorised Persons working in decontamination, and aspiring to an Authorising Engineer role, Eastwood Park has been working with IHEEM on a new AE competency-based assessment programme.

## Robust lighting



Whitecroft Lighting says its DTFN/A lighting system 'offers all the features to satisfy the infection control requirements of theatres and sterile recovery areas, where IP65/54 luminaires are required throughout'.

DTFN has jacking brackets for positive engagement with the ceiling, no vertical gaps, and capped fixings for ease of cleaning. With a toughened glass front, it is 'impervious to bacteria, and unaffected by sterilising cleaning agents and ultraviolet light'.

Whitecroft also offers LED replacement options, which 'enable clients to enjoy the benefit of a direct retrofit solution that guarantees energy savings'.

## 'Packed full' of innovation

Starkstrom says its S-equip product range is 'packed full of infection-fighting innovations', to ensure operating rooms or critical care areas remain a 'bacteria and virus-unfriendly' zone.

The company said: "Our clinical lighting performs exceptionally well even under UCV canopies, where clever design ensures minimal disruption to airflow, and maintains ultraclean conditions at the wound site. The lights can be controlled remotely via the wipe-clean eTCP theatre control panels, or directly by the surgeon using the Sensogrip controls, so fewer staff need enter the clean zone. Membrane-style control keypads, and strong glass lenses,



make the lights easy to clean, and less bacteria-prone."

Starkstrom's multi-movement pendants feature screwless sockets and fascias, easily removable end caps, integrated utility poles, and oval structural arm design, ensuring that they are easy to clean and have fewer ledges and screw heads to harbour dust and

germs, while the eTCP control panels have a membrane-covered touchscreen, with no protruding pushbuttons, controls, or third party alarms.

Designed specifically for operating rooms, Starkstrom's wall-mounted PACS viewing station fits flush to the wall, and off the floor, and is easy to clean.

## 'Preferred' bedpan handling method

Haigh says its specialist macerator range works with all leading pulp suppliers, and addresses key potential user challenges, such as space constraints, energy consumption, speed, and reliability. It adds: "We have a range of macerators proven to reduce infection."

One such is the award-winning, hands-free Panaway, which can dispose of four pulp products in 85 seconds, using 50% less energy than 'alternatives'. After 15 years using bedpan washers, the Princess of Wales Hospital in



Bridgend, South Wales, switched to the single-use system, and has since installed nine Panaways throughout nine wards. Andrew Kidger, estates officer, said: "The benefits have been far-reaching; infection risk is reduced, since the items are

single-use, so there is no handling of unclean items. After use the bedpans are disposed of, and nurses have more time to spend with patients. Energy consumption is also reduced, as there are no elements or water to heat, and no testing to do."

## In situ decontamination system

Howorth's Biotechnology division was established 'to service ever-increasing demand for effective, safe, state-of-the-art vapour-phase fumigation systems, whether to control healthcare-associated infections, or eradicate microorganisms'.

Its BioGen DVHP (Dry Vaporised Hydrogen Peroxide) system provides decontamination of all equipment and facilities, using a dry vapour. With no surface wetting, all equipment, including electrical items, can be decontaminated *in situ*.

Howorth says the technology



'guarantees total surface and airborne elimination of all pathogens – viruses, germs, spores and bacteria'. BioGen DVHP decontamination provides 'up to and including a 6 log (10<sup>6</sup>) kill against pathogens', including MRSA and *Clostridium difficile*.

'Real-time process control' obviates the need to

dehumidify the area, 'while ensuring a successful kill in any environmental conditions', so that facilities can be reoperational 'with total assurance of a fully validated pathological kill, in industry-leading time'.