Getting the (Red) Dirt Out: A Review of BC’s Environmental Cleaning Guidelines
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.
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/
Policy available @ 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:
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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