Clean Hospitals Day 2025: Human Factors and Collaboration

Presented by Dr. Alexandra Peters, PhD

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and

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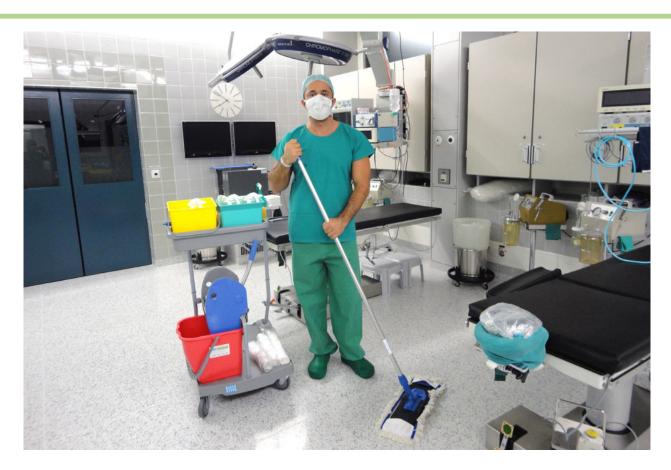


Agenda

- Human Factors & Collaboration in HEH
- Introduction to Clean Hospitals Day
- Clean Hospitals 2025 Partners
- NEW 2025 Social Media Materials
- Summary of 2024 Clean Hospitals Day Outreach
- An example of CH Day in Pula, Croatia
- Ways to participate & share our message



Healthcare Environmental Hygiene (HEH) is made up of...







HEH technical components

Water control

Surface cleaning & disinfection





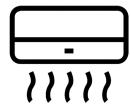


Laundry

Sterilization & device reprocessing







Air control



Waste management



HEH human factors



Career development



Training



Workflow

Cost and value



Management



Monitoring

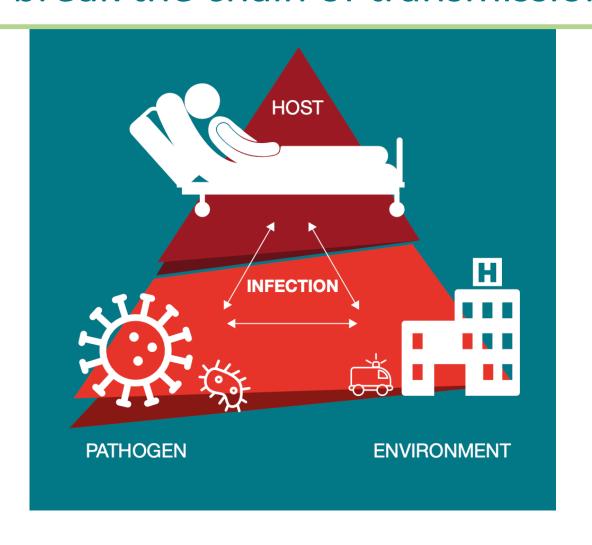


Workforce





Goal: To break the chain of transmission







Who cleans what? Everyone is crucial to the outcome









Who cleans?

- Cleaning staff
- Nurses
- Nursing assistants



Tasks must be clearly divided between the cleaning staff and nursing staff

No areas should be left unassigned or uncleaned!



Quality depends on the workforce

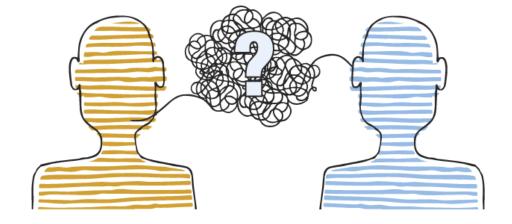
- Important to remember: You can't have quality if the workforce isn't motivated or appreciated!
- This work can be stressful, high-pressure, and physically demanding
- Hospitals must be sensitive to the concerns of workers
- That team cohesion and empowering individuals is crucial





In reality, there are major issues in EVS depts.

- Inadequate training/education
- High turnover rate
- Lack of motivation
- No certification
- Language barrier







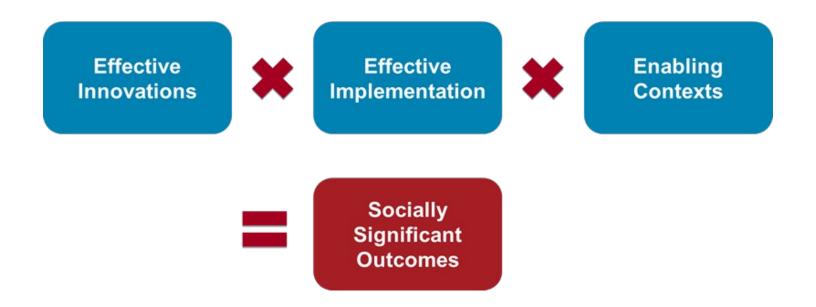
Remember: You can only pick two!







Formula For Success







What is an enabling context?

- Enabling contexts have to do with optimizing human components
- One needs to go back to the multimodal strategy to understand...







Changing Behavior: The Multimodal Improvement Strategy

- 1. System change
- 2. Training & Education
- 3. Monitoring & Feedback
- 4. Workplace Reminders
- 5. Institutional Safety Climate

Developed in Geneva

In use for Hand Hygiene promotion since 2009

The basis of three WHO global surveys since, with thousands of hospitals involved









What are we really assessing?

- 1. System change
- 2. Training & Education
- 3. Monitoring & Feedback
- 4. Workplace Reminders
- 5. Institutional Safety Climate

Human factors!!





HEH human factors

Career development



Management



Training



Workflow



Workforce



Monitoring













All of these elements are...







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Cost and value





Monitoring

Workforce



Between...

- Environmental services (EVS) staff themselves
- EVS and nursing staff
- EVS staff and EVS management
- EVS management and the hospital administration
- Hospital administration and EVS departments
- EVS and IPC departments
- Hospitals, training institutions, and regional/national governing bodies







Relationships

- These relationships can be strengthened or broken by training and monitoring techniques
- Fostering commitment and buy-in is complex
- Punitive practices tend to work less well and sometimes only worsen the condition for an already marginalized and disadvantaged group of workers
- Good training and monitoring (and a good institutional safety climate!) make adequate performance a reflex





EVS staff availability

Enough cleaning staff needs to be available at all times so that staff can respond to any emergency situation (spills, infectious disease outbreaks etc.) without disrupting their regular activities





Optimizing HEH



- Optimal HEH is as much about the products as it is about institutions and people
- All elements need to work harmoniously for improvement





Example of HUG in Geneva: Education and training program



Initial program

Program for specific environments





Initial education and training program (1)



The "reverse pedagogy approach":

- Active and participative teaching method
- Role playing and feed-back

Training on the field in pairs with an experienced collaborator 3 days



Initial training and education program





Initial education and training program (2)



Objectives

- To master the basic maintenance cleaning according to the different types of rooms and environments
- To master the organization and implementation of these cleaning operations with respect to recommendations for hygiene, safety at work, health, and environmental protection







Validation of acquired knowledge

- Working in pairs with an experienced collaborator
- Working autonomously
- Validation of the cleaning techniques by a manager









Education and training: Program for specific environments

Initial program

- Specific training for EVS workers assigned to specific environments (OR, isolation rooms, MRI, clean room, etc.)
- Using: Active and participative teaching method, reverse pedagogy, role playing and feed-back

Program for specific environments

Operating theaters
Rooms of transplant patients
Clean rooms

...





How managers inspect the environment

- Visual inspection of surfaces
- Direct observation of cleaning
- Microbial sampling
- Fluorescent markers
- ATP meters









Which to choose?







Visual Inspection

Is testing behavior- (did someone wipe this surface?)

Fluorescent gel

- Is testing behavior (did someone wipe well enough to remove gel?)
- Can also affect HEH personnel behavior and perception

ATP

Is measuring cleaning

Microbiological Sampling

• Is testing disinfection





Certification



Why certify the people who clean? Certification...

- Increases staff performance
- Increases the quality of the workforce
- Increases consistency
- Ability to gauge quality of the staff as a whole
- Ability to assess structural weaknesses
- Professionalizes the field of HEH







To keep in mind



In many healthcare facilities around the world:

- EVS workers are the ONLY healthcare workers commonly NOT required by hospitals to have certifications...
- Or in some cases even training!



We cannot have quality in the field without professionalization!!



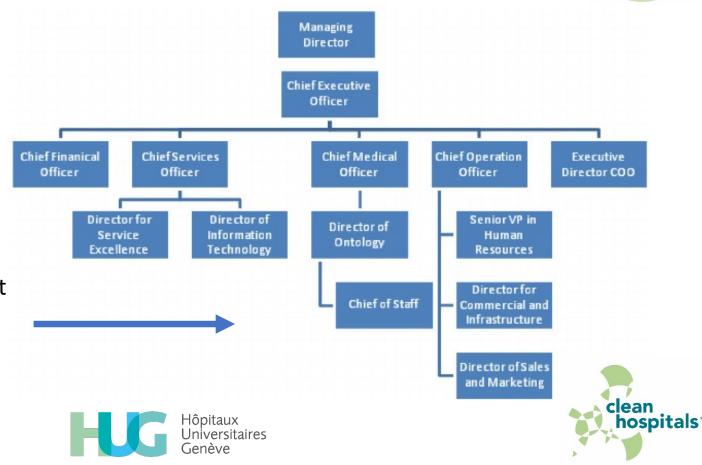


Institutional Safety Climate



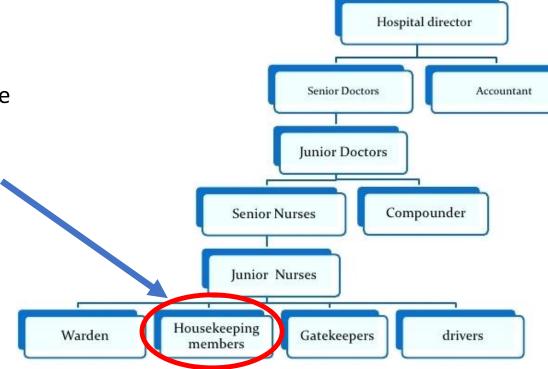
All other efforts will be insufficient without a support from the institution

The EVS Department is often not even on many hospital organigrams!



Hospital organizational chart

And if they are, there is no professional title!









What are the most important factors in institutional safety climate?



- Team cohesion, cooperation, accountability, and positive environment are all extremely important
- People need to be recognized and paid for their work, understand how important it is for patient safety
- Career advancement and upward communication are also key
- It comes down to investing in the workforce and respecting them







How sustain HEH knowledge & quality (1)

- Invest sufficient resources in infrastructure and supplies
- Invests sufficient resources in personnel
- Staff are educated to understand the importance of the job
- The collaborator needs to be capable of quality
 - Needs to have the understanding and the education









How sustain HEH knowledge & quality (2)

- Safe working conditions must be prioritized (ergonomics, chemicals)
- Access to adapted training materials
 - People learn differently
 - EVS personnel may not have excelled in academic settings, which means there needs to be a highlight on visual tools, practical application "learning by doing"
 - Potential tools- reverse pedagogy, VR, group sessions with role play, etc.
- Workplace culture is prioritized and EVS teams are integrated into the healthcare teams









Key points

- Close collaboration of the environmental services department and infection prevention and control department is crucial
- "Adapt to Adopt": hospitals should implement improvements in their own way and cultural contexts









A Chief financial officer once asked a CEO: "What happens if we invest in developing our people and then they leave us?"

The CEO replied: "What happens if we don't, and they stay?"

-Peter Baeklund







What is the Clean Hospitals?

A coalition of international stakeholders who work explicitly to promote and support healthcare environmental hygiene

- research
- publications
- participation in conferences and events
- education and training
- specialized working groups







Clean Hospitals Day: October 20th

- 2025: Human factors and collaboration
- 2024: The 6 Technical Domains of HEH
- 2023: Launch of the HEHSAF tool
- 2022: CH Day conference
- 2021: EVS staff
- 2020: HEH and COVID-19



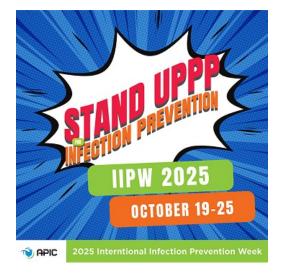
Clean Hospitals Day 2025 partners





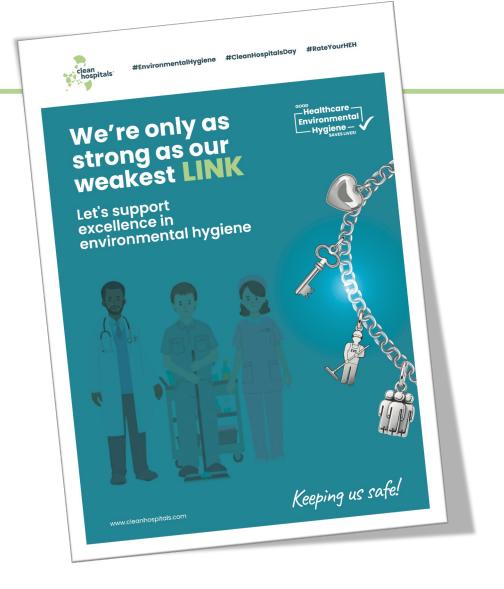


International Infection Prevention Week





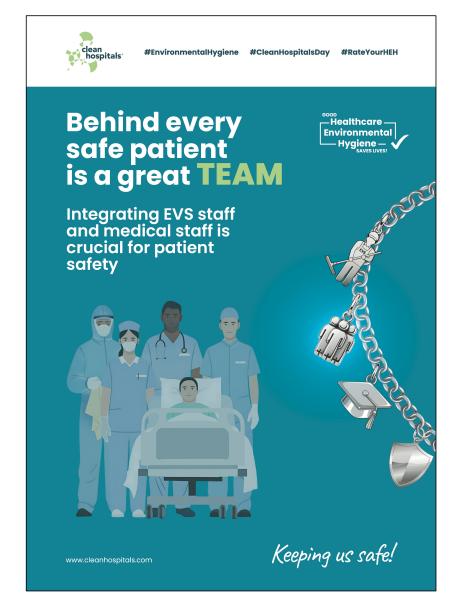
Main poster:





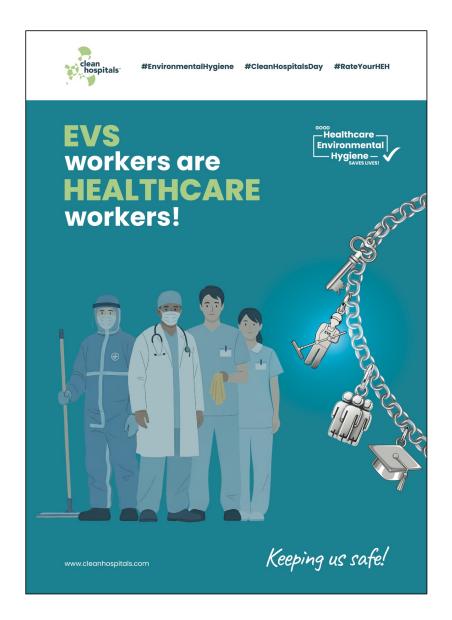
Clean Hospitals Day 2025 Promotional Materials





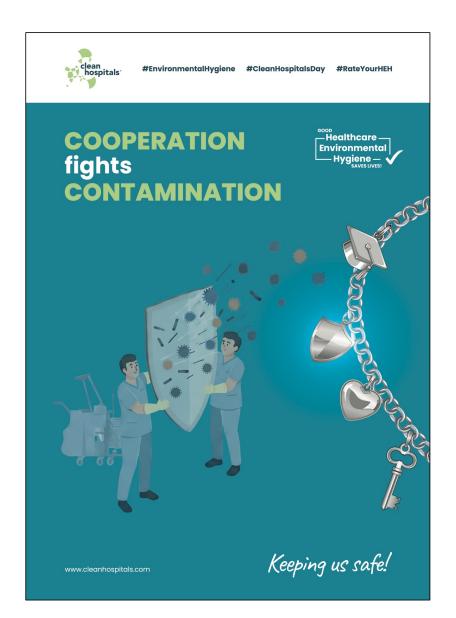
















#EnvironmentalHygiene #CleanHospitalsDay #RateYourHEH

Communication is the **KEY** to quality

Honest and transparent communication saves lives



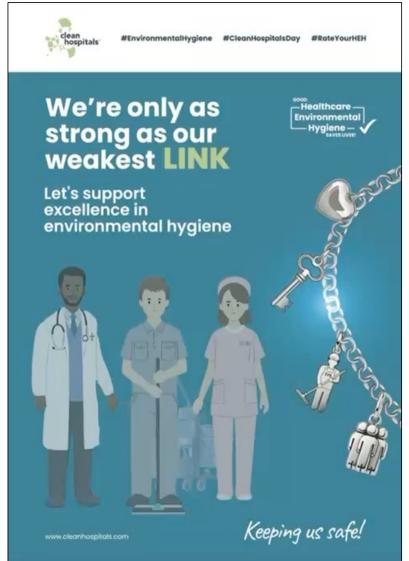
Keeping us safe!



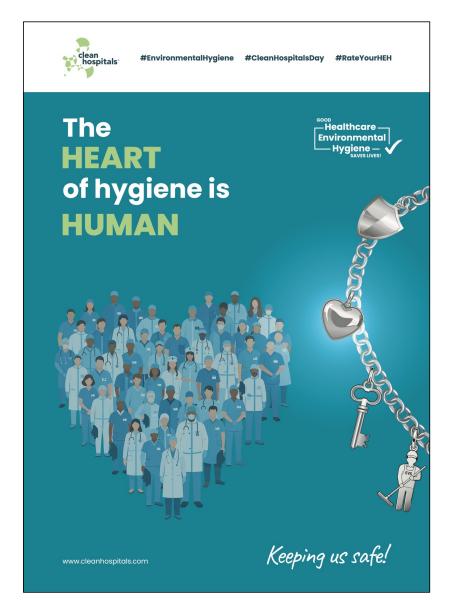






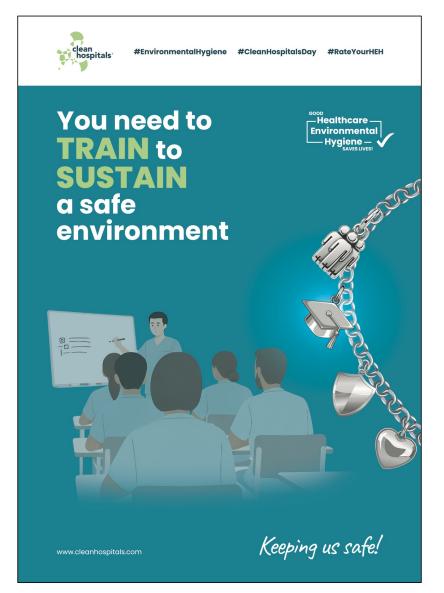


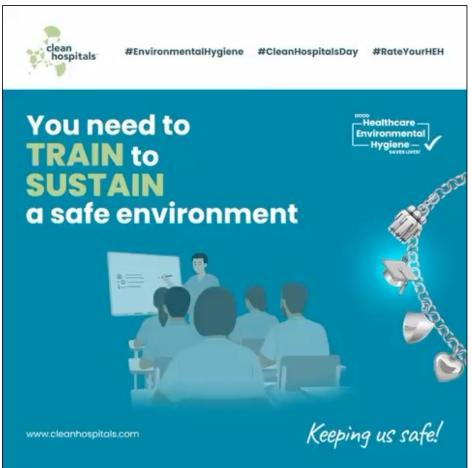






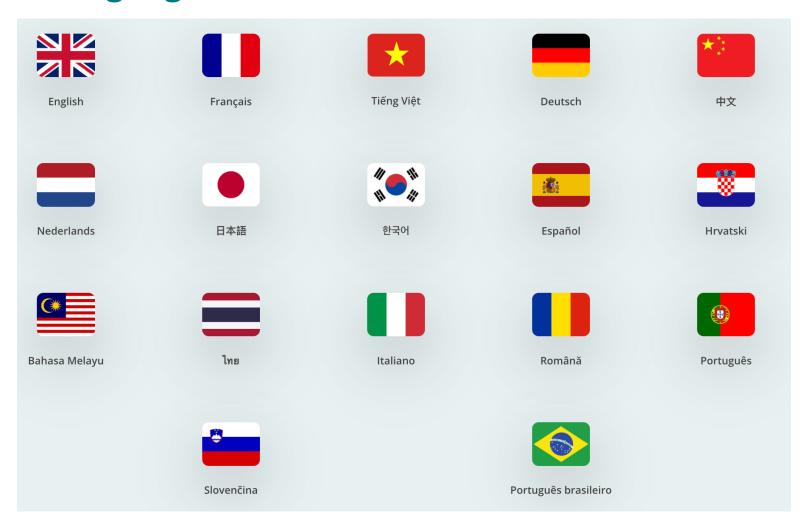








Multi-Language Materials NOW Available for Download





Other Promotional Materials



Factsheet

#EnvironmentalHygiene #CleanHospitalsDay #RateYourHEH

Healthcare Environmental Hygiene (HEH): **KEY FACTS and FIGURES** Infection prevention and control

Rurden of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

- HAIs are among the most common adverse events in healthcare settings, causing harm to patients, visitors, and staff, and imposing a heavy burden on health systems, including increased costs
- In acute-care hospitals, 7% of patients in high-income countries and 15% in low- and middle-income countries acquire at least one HAI during their hospital stay!
- The impact of HAIs and AMR on individuals is immense, with over 24% of patients with healthcare-associated sepsis and more than half of those in intensive care dving each year
- Patient death rates increase 2 to 3-fold when infections are resistant to antimicrobials

HEH and IPC: The Problem

- HEH comprises several technical domains as well as human factors
- HEH technical domains include surfaces, air control, water control, device reprocessing and sterilization, laundry, and waste management
- HEH is an often-neglected field, with insufficient investment from healthcare facilities
 There is currently no international consensus on
- HEH best practices

 The healthcare environment within the patient
- zone is often contaminated with microbial pathogens, including multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)^{3,4}
- Strong evidence suggests that the healthcare environment plays a major role in the transmission of HAIs, both through fomite transmission and as a source of hand contamination⁶⁻¹⁰
 Pathogens such as MRSA, VRE, norovirus, C.
- difficile. Candida auris, and Acinetobacter spp. are often transmitted through the healthcare

 If a hospital room's previous occupant was colonized by an MDRO, the next patient is 1.5 to 4 times more likely to become colonized or infected with that MDRO"

HEH and IPC: The Solution

- · Effective infection prevention and control (IPC)
- measures can prevent up to 70% of HAIs¹ Improvements in HEH has been shown to reduce colonization and HAIs® with successful interventions often being multimodal and involving at least one of the 6 HEH technical
- domains
 IPC interventions generally offer a high return on investment, with programs yielding a 7 to 16-fold return on every \$1 invested

Insights from a pilot survey of 51 hospitals across 35 countries⁵

- 98% of facilities across all resource levels reported significant issues with their HEH
- programs

 An overwhelming majority of environmental services staff did not receive comprehensive
- formal training Rope mops and buckets were still commonly used for floor cleaning in most healthcare facilities, and were often not changed between
- 12% of healthcare facilities did not separate normal waste from medical or hazardous waste

 22% of healthcare facilities reported having an
- open dump site nearby
 In nearly half of the healthcare facilities.

- In nearly half of the healthcare facilities, environmental services managers were on-site less than once per week or not at all 18% of respondants reported that environmental services staff and nursing staff faced communication barriers because they did not speak the same language. Upward communication with direct superiors was possible in only one in four healthcare facilities

Keeping us safe!



Video Conferencing Background



Social Media Photo Frame



Poster Maker





www.cleanhospitals.com

Selfie Board - Download, sign and share on Social Media using the hashtags







Clean Hospitals Day 2025 Publications

Journal: Infection, Disease & Health



Clean Hospitals Day 2025: The human factors of healthcare environmental hygiene

Infection prevention; Healthcare environmental hygiene

Clean Hospitals Day is an annual celebration every 20th of October. It aims to increase awareness of healthcare environmental hypiene (HEI), Steet Facility engagement and appreciation of environmental services (EVS) staff. This year's theme is "Human Factors and Collaboration", high-lighting the role that both human excellence and error play

tighting the role that both human excellence and error play in infection prevention and control [PG], and how foreign on how environmental service (EVS) workers and their management is crucial to providing quality care.

The provided of the provided provided to the provided of iPG, the healthcare environment is now recognized as being analysis source of pathogen transmission, either directive through formites, shared medical devices or as a source of hand contamination [1—4]. Healthcare-associated infections are one of the main global challenges in infectious diseases, as well as one of the main drivers of antibiotic consumption. Reducing these tirections not only saves use, which in turn reduces the selective prossure divinis use, which in turn reduces the selective pressure driving

use, which in turn reduces the selective pressure arriving antibiotic resistance [5-7]. Environmental hygiene is made up of both technical domains and human factors. The technical domains (surfaces, air control, water control, device reprocessing and sterilization, laundry, and waste management) concern the

environment [8]. The human factors concern the people responsible for hygiene and their behaviors, and involve everything from EVS training and management to team dynamics, career development, internal communication, and safety culture within facilities.

Although human factors are often inherently more

Although human factors are often inherently more inflicuted to improve or even measure compared with technical indicators, their importance cannot be overstated. This is evident in the World Health Organization (WHO) Muttimodal improvement Strategy (MMS), the behavior change model most often implemented globally for evaluating both HEH and hand hygiene at the facility level. The WIO MMS consists of the pillars system change, training with MMS and the pillars system change, training minders, and institutional safety climate (PJ, Of these, only system change) and "workplace reminders" concern primarily technical components. The other three pillars concern human factors; people utilitately determine the concern human factors; people utilitately determine concern human factors; people ultimately determine the quality of an HEH program

quanty or an Inch program.

There is a long road ahead: globally, EVS workers' role in IPC is rarely recognized, and they are often undertrained and underpaid. Outsourcing and restricting cleaning time to reduce costs further impact quality, as do language barriers between the EVS and clinical staff [10].

Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control

Peters et al. Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control (2025) 14:111 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-025-01638-v

Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control

Clean Hospitals Day 2025: the human factors of healthcare environmental hygiene

Alexandra Peters^{1,2*}, Martina Mocenic^{3,4}, Pierre Parneix⁵, Brett G. Mitchell^{6,7}, Stephanie Dancer⁸ and David J. Weber⁹

Keywords Infection prevention, Healthcare environmental hygiene, Health campaign, Public health, IPC, Healthcareassociated infection

October. It aims to increase awareness of healthcare environmental hygiene (HEH), foster facility engagement and only saves lives, money, and resources, but also reduces appreciation of environmental services (EVS) staff. This antibiotics use, which in turn reduces the selective presyear's theme is "Human Factors and Collaboration", high-sure driving antibiotic resistance [5-7]. lighting the role that both human excellence and error

IPC, the healthcare environment is now recognized as must be managed both physically and microbiologically being a major source of pathogen transmission, either to ensure the safety of patients, staff, visitors, and the directly through fomites, shared medical devices or as a larger environment [8]. The human factors concern the source of hand contamination [1-4]. Healthcare-associpeople responsible for hygiene and their behaviors, and ated infections are one of the main global challenges in

Clean Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland

Iniversity of Geneva Institute of Global Health, 9 Chemin des Mines.

Clean Hospitals Day is an annual celebration every 20th of infectious diseases, as well as one of the main drivers of

Environmental hygiene is made up of both technical play in infection prevention and control (IPC), and how domains and human factors. The technical domains (surfocusing on how environmental service (EVS) workers faces, air control, water control, device reprocessing and and their management is crucial to providing quality care. sterilization, laundry, and waste management) concern Although HEH remains a relatively neglected field of the different environments in healthcare facilities that involve everything from EVS training and management to team dynamics, career development, internal commu nication, and safety culture within facilities.

Although human factors are often inherently more dif ficult to improve or even measure compared with technical indicators, their importance cannot be overstated This is evident in the World Health Organization (WHO) Multimodal Improvement Strategy (MMIS), the behavior

Other Publications in Progress

Journal of Hospital Infection Infection Prevention in Practice



Global Engagement



> News > Details

October, 20th 2024: Celebrating Clean Hospi 2024

1 Goal Keeping us safe!

< Previous article

20 September 2024, EUNETIPS is shares Clean Hospitals Day 2024 initiative. This global awareness raising campaign was created to bring international attention to the need for an increased focus on healthcare environmental hygiene to highlight its importance in patient safety. It is also a call to Screenshot n Clean Hospitals in celebrating and empowering all of the





At SIUT, our commitment to healthcare starts with a clean, safe environment – made possible by the dedication of over 500 unsung heroes who ensure our spaces remain spotless every day. Today, on Clean Hospitals Day, we honor their invaluable contribution to patient safety and wellbeing. Thank you for your hard work and smiles that keep SIUT shining.

+ Follow

care

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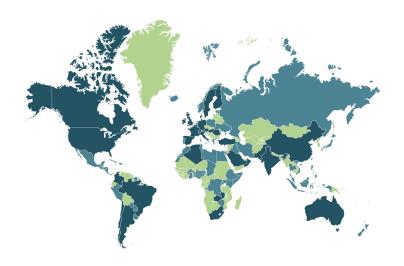
#CleanHospitalsDay #HealthcareHeroes #SIUT #ApnaHai #SafeAndClean #PatientSafety #HealthcareHygiene #EnvironmentalHygiene



Clean Hospitals 2024 Day Stats Summary



2024 Campaign Stats Summary



Total number of countries reached

114

\$\frac{11,000}{\text{Website hits from}}\$

Website hits from 3879 unique addresses

3,787

New website users

2,513,741

Potential Social Media impressions

. 90.85%

Positive sentiment score`

*** 85.09%**

Visited of all traffic visited the CHD related pages

45

Identified participating companies

61,181

Verified Social Media impressions & counting...

G-Trends

"Clean Hospitals" debuts first uptick on Google Trends

Date: 20th September – 28th October







































9ama healthcare







pal





The number of Companies we have Identified promoting content







KiiLTO



A·I·S·E











steripro















Ways to use the materials

- Share photos or videos of your team's efforts on social media using #CleanHospitalsDay.
- Promote the campaign using materials from the Promotional Toolkit
- Share the CH Day teleclass/webinar recording to learn about the year's theme
- Collaborate with colleagues to improve environmental hygiene procedures
- Display posters and banners in your facility to raise awareness among staff and patients
- Share your story on the Clean Hospitals LinkedIn page or community
- Rate your healthcare facility's HEH by using the Healthcare Environmental Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework (HEHSAF)

Resources Available

- Promotional Toolkit: https://cleanhospitals.com/promotional-toolkit-2025/
- Multi-Language Posters: https://cleanhospitals.com/promotional-toolkit-2025-
 multilanguage/
- Calendar of Upcoming Events: https://cleanhospitals.com/calendar-of-events/
- Clean Hospitals LinkedIn: https://linkedin.com/company/cleanhospitals
 - Tag us @CleanHospitals & use #CleanHospitalsDay #EnvironmentalHygiene #RateyourHEH
- Take the HEHSAF: https://cleanhospitals.com/hehsaf/



Celebration of the Clean Hospitals Day 20th October 2024 General Hospital Pula



Official invitation

Invite sent to upper managmenent

- Director and the Deputy Director, Manager of the Technical Service
- Infection control team

Talk

- ✓ Clean Hospitals Day
- ✓ Importance of EVS in hospital







Obilježavanje dana čistih bolnica 2024! Celebrating Clean Hospitals Day 2024!



Program obilježavanja:

- 13:00 13:20 Pozdravna riječ Ravnatelja *Andrej Angelini* Pozdravna riječ pomoćnika za kvalitetu *Ivica Fedel* Pozdravna riječ pomoćnice za sestrinstvo *Irina Pucić*
- 13:20 13:40 Clean hospitals Day- Dan čistih bolnica Martina Močenić
- 13:40 14:00 Važnost i uloga osoblja za čišćenje u zdravstvenoj ustanovi Barbara Šarić
- 14:00 14:30 Rasprava i zaključci

21.10.2024 U 13 sati Predavaona OB Pula, Santoriova 24a



#EnvironmentalHygiene #CleanHospitals #CleanHospitalsDa







2024 was focused on the 6 technical components of HEH



Surfaces



Reprocessing and Sterilization



Water Control



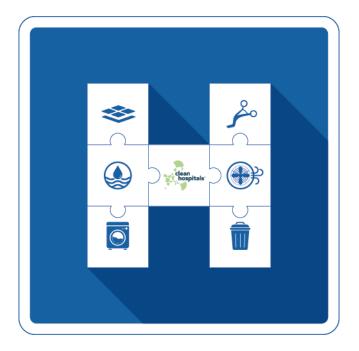
Air Control



Laundry



Waste Management





Main focus of the celebration:

Highlighting the role of all employees in maintaining environmental hygiene in a healthcare facility, especially those who are less visible but very important:

- 1. Service department: **EVS staff, Laundry and Maintenance**
- 2. Technical department: Water and air control
- 3. Occupational health and safety department: Waste management
- 4. Central sterilization department: Instrument reprocessing and sterilization





Presentation to EVS Staff, Management, Nurses, and Technical Staff







Selfie Board activity and pictures

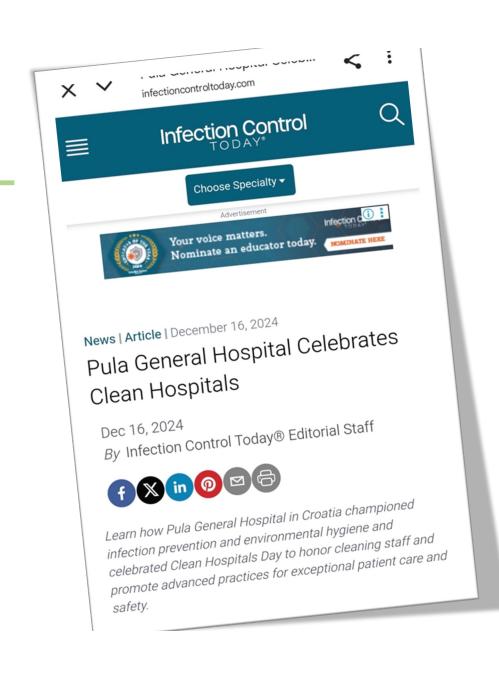








Publishing our experience





Greetings from General Hospital Pula!





Other ways to Celebrate Clean Hospitals Day

1. Gratitude and Recognition

- ✓ Organize a small ceremony to present certificates of appreciation or symbolic awards to the cleaning staff.
- ✓ Create a "Wall of Gratitude" in the hospital where patients and staff can leave thank you notes

2. **Involving Staff**

- ✓ Invite medical staff to write short thank you notes or anecdotes that can be read aloud or displayed
- ✓ Make a short video or slideshow featuring the cleaning team "behind the scenes" to show their often invisible but vital contributions



Other ways to Celebrate Clean Hospitals Day (2)

3. Symbolic Gestures

- ✓ Flowers or small gifts (chocolates, personalized mugs, T-shirts with the slogan)
- ✓ Organize a shared breakfast or cake celebration in honor of the cleaning staff.

4. Educational and Motivational Part

- ✓ Prepare a short talk and use poster campaign with a messages
- ✓ Educate patients and visitors on the importance of hospital hygiene

5. **Public Visibility**

✓ Post on social media and the hospital website stories about the cleaning staff, with photos and their personal messages.



Thank you!



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OCTOBER

- 2 ... Sustainable Healthcare and IPC: Can They Co-Exist (an IFIC teleclass)
 - With Dr. Graham Pike, UK, and Profa. Dra. Camila Quartim de Moraes Bruna, Brazil
- 15 ... What Can Knowing Something About the Evolution of *Clostridium difficile* Teach Us About IPAC?

 Australasian
- Teleclass With Prof. Thomas Riley, Australia
 - 20 ... Special Lecture for International Clean Hospitals Day
 - With Prof. Didier Pittet (and friends), Switzerland
 - 21 ... Discussion: Are Current Healthcare Cleaning Guidelines Sufficient to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance Spread? With Dr. Jon Otter, UK & Dr. Curtis Donskey, US
- 28 ... Research Priorities to Strengthen Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities: the CLEAN Group

 Afro-European
 Teleclass Consensus

With Dr. Giorgia Gon, UK

NOVEMBER

- Afro-European The Use of Faecal Microbiota Transplant as Treatment for Clostridium difficile
 - Teleclass With Simon Goldenberg, UK
 - 13 ... Solve the LTC Outbreak!

With Steven J. Schweon

19 ... Special Lecture for World Toilet Day

DECEMBER

- 4 ... What's On a Surface Doesn't Stay On a Surface The Dynamics and Risk of Microbial Resuspension From Surfaces
 - With Prof. Charles Gerba, US
- Afro-European Teleclass With Colm Dunne, UK

Thanks to Teleclass Education PATRON SPONSORS









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