Clean Hospitals Day 2026: Empowerment

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Hosted by Martin Kiernan

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6 October, 2026

Agenda

- Introduction
- Healthcare environmental hygiene (HEH) in patient safety
- CH Day aims and 2025 recap
- Empowerment in HEH
- Empowerment in action: Some lessons from Geneva
- CH Day 2026 Materials and how to engage

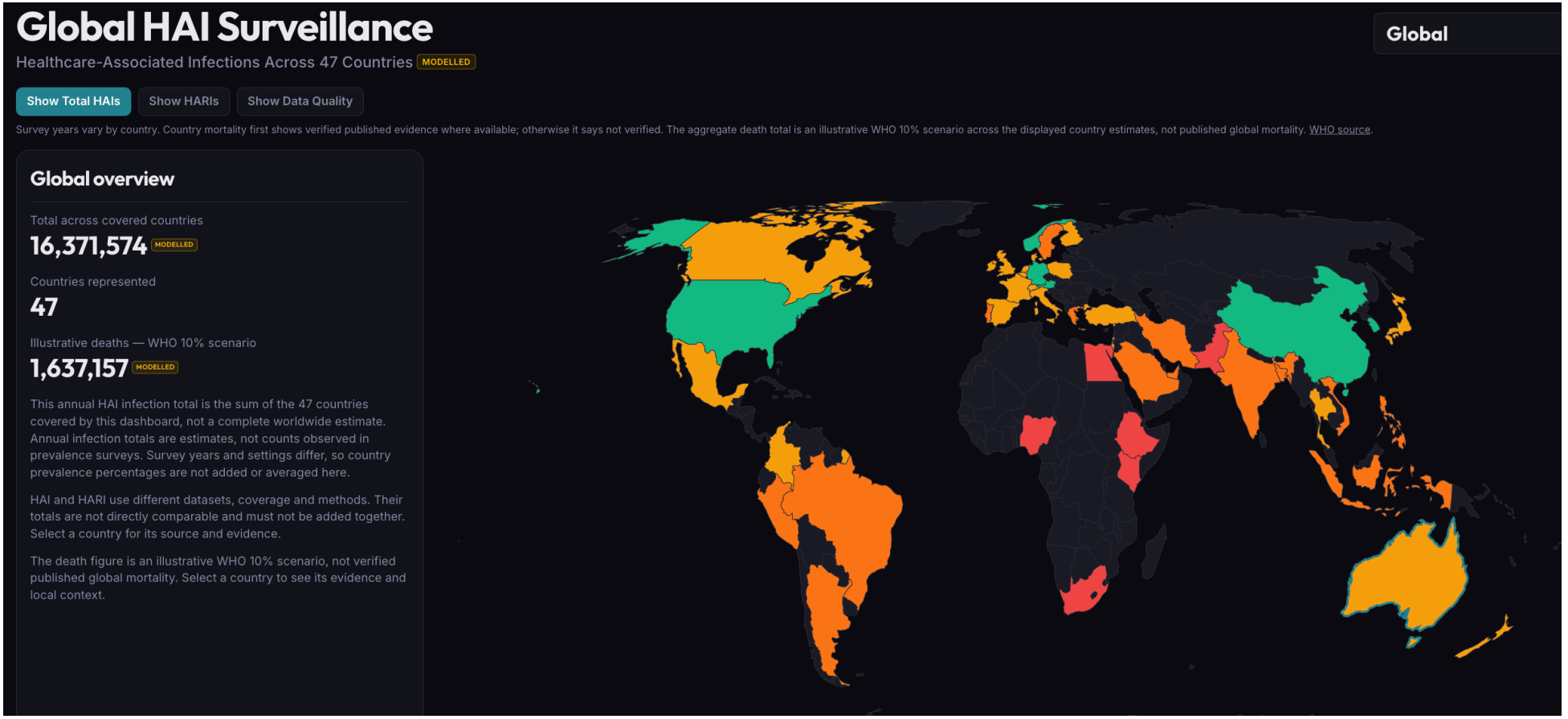


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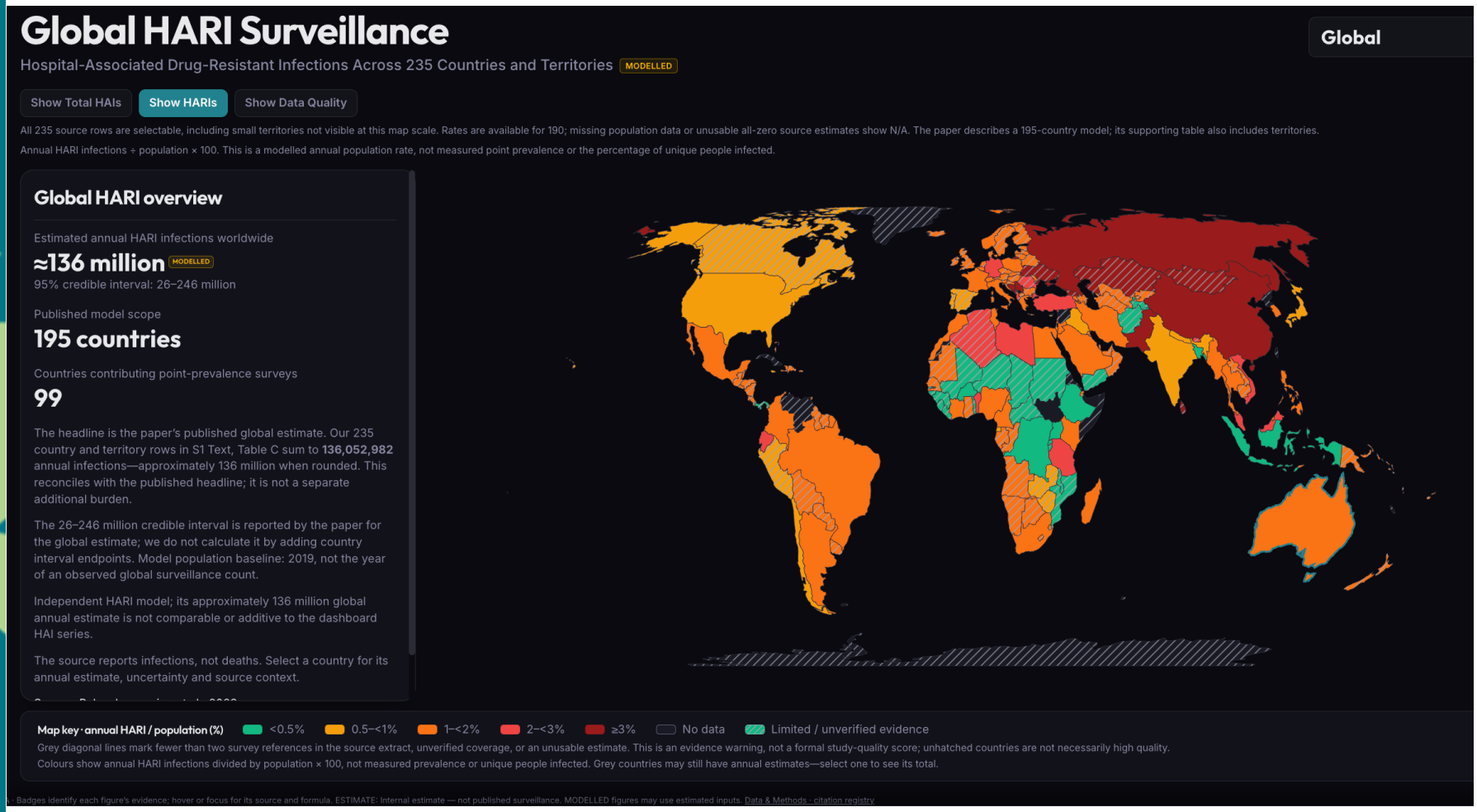


Burden of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)



Source: Clean Hospitals Interactive HAI Dashboard, 2026

Hospital-associated drug-resistant Infections



What is Clean Hospitals?

We are a coalition of international stakeholders who work explicitly to promote and support healthcare environmental hygiene and hand hygiene through:

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

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What do we aim to do?

Bring together academia, industry, and healthcare facilities to:

- Champion best practices and evidence-based solutions
- Drive and support academic research in healthcare environmental hygiene (HEH) and hand hygiene (HH)
- Create a network where project members can exchange and collaborate
- Build a platform from which to bring healthcare hygiene into the spotlight



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HEH in the last 10 years

Healthcare environmental hygiene has made significant advances on a global level especially in terms of:

The scientific literature

- Proved the importance of the healthcare environment in patient safety

The level of innovation in industry

- Often far more advanced and of higher quality than the status quo in facilities

The awareness of healthcare facilities

- Increasing demand for training and expertise

International Awareness

- Ministries of Health
- New national level guidelines
- IPC association interest around the world



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The role of HEH (and HH) in disease transmission

- Depends on the setting and estimates vary
- The environment contaminates hands and hands contaminate the environment
- An estimated 20-40% of HAI are spread through the healthcare environment
- An estimated 40-70% of HAI are caused by contaminated hands
- Evidence-based IPC interventions have been shown to be effective in preventing at least 50% of HAIs*

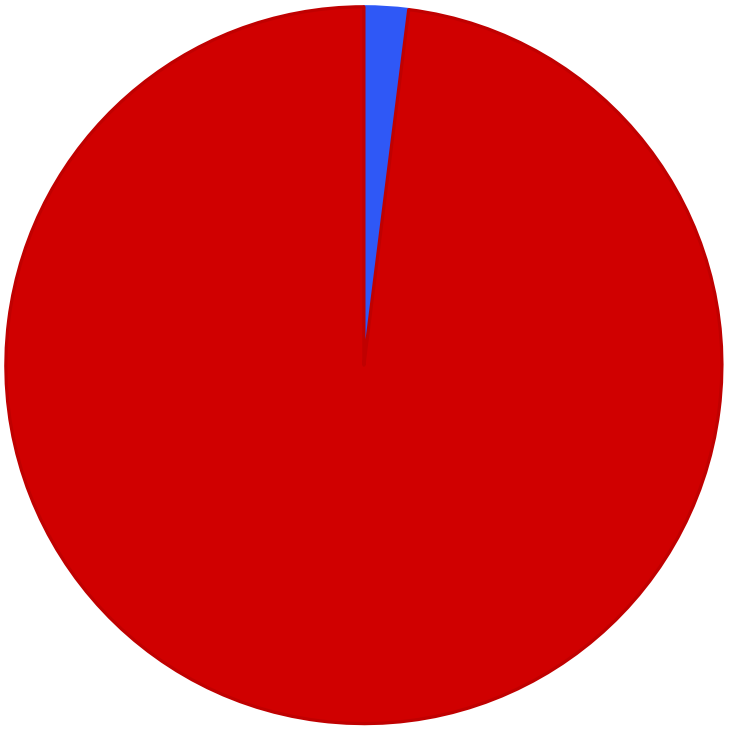


*Umscheid et al. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2011; 32: 101-114

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HEH is a GLOBAL problem

- HEH programs were insufficient across all resource levels
- 98% of HCFs were majorly lacking in at least one of the five major components of HEH



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Peters A, Schmid MN, Kraker MEA, Parneix P, Pittet D. Results of an international pilot survey on health care environmental hygiene at the facility level. Am J Infect Control. 2022 Dec;50(12):1302-1310.

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HEH In patient safety…



HEH In patient safety…

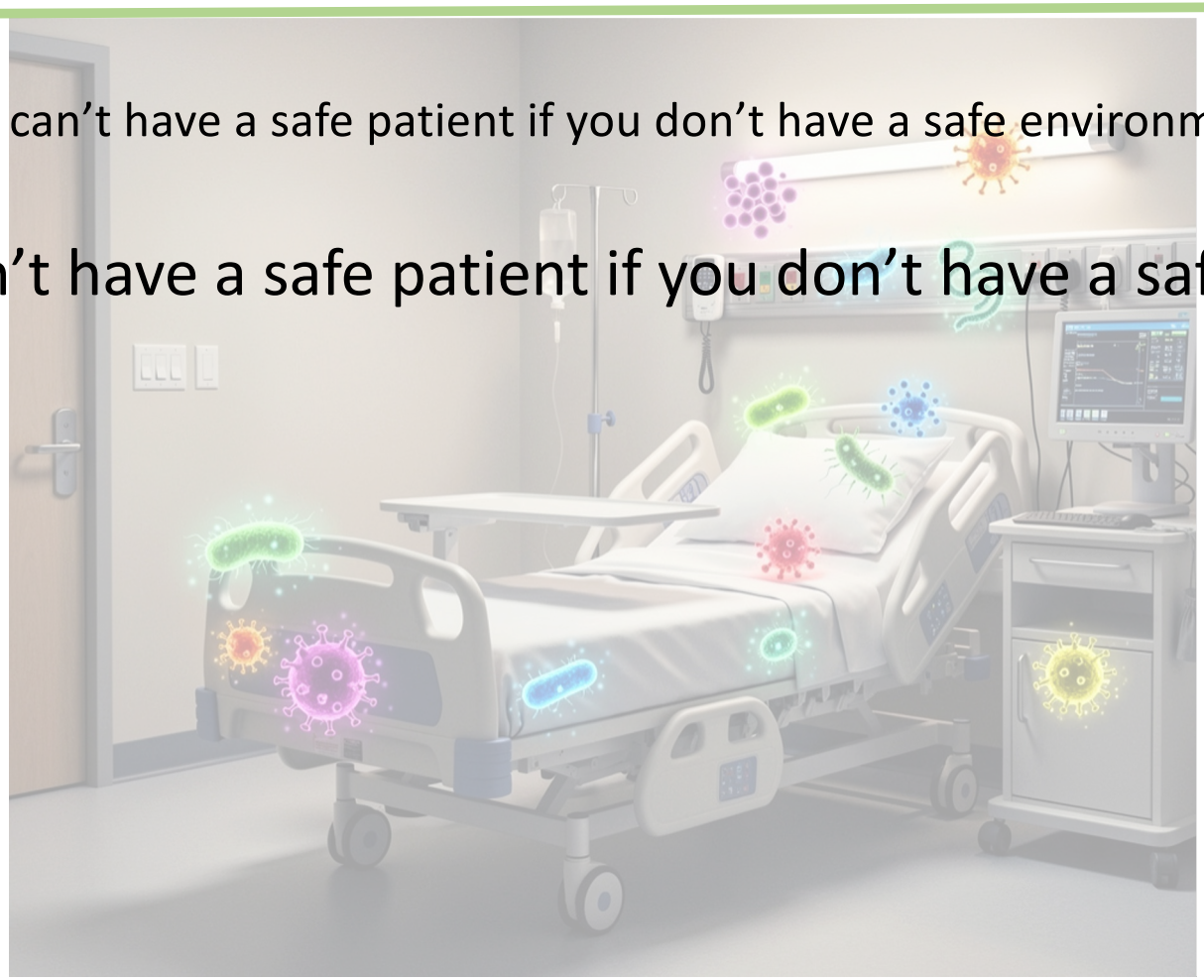
You can’t have a safe patient if you don’t have a safe environment!



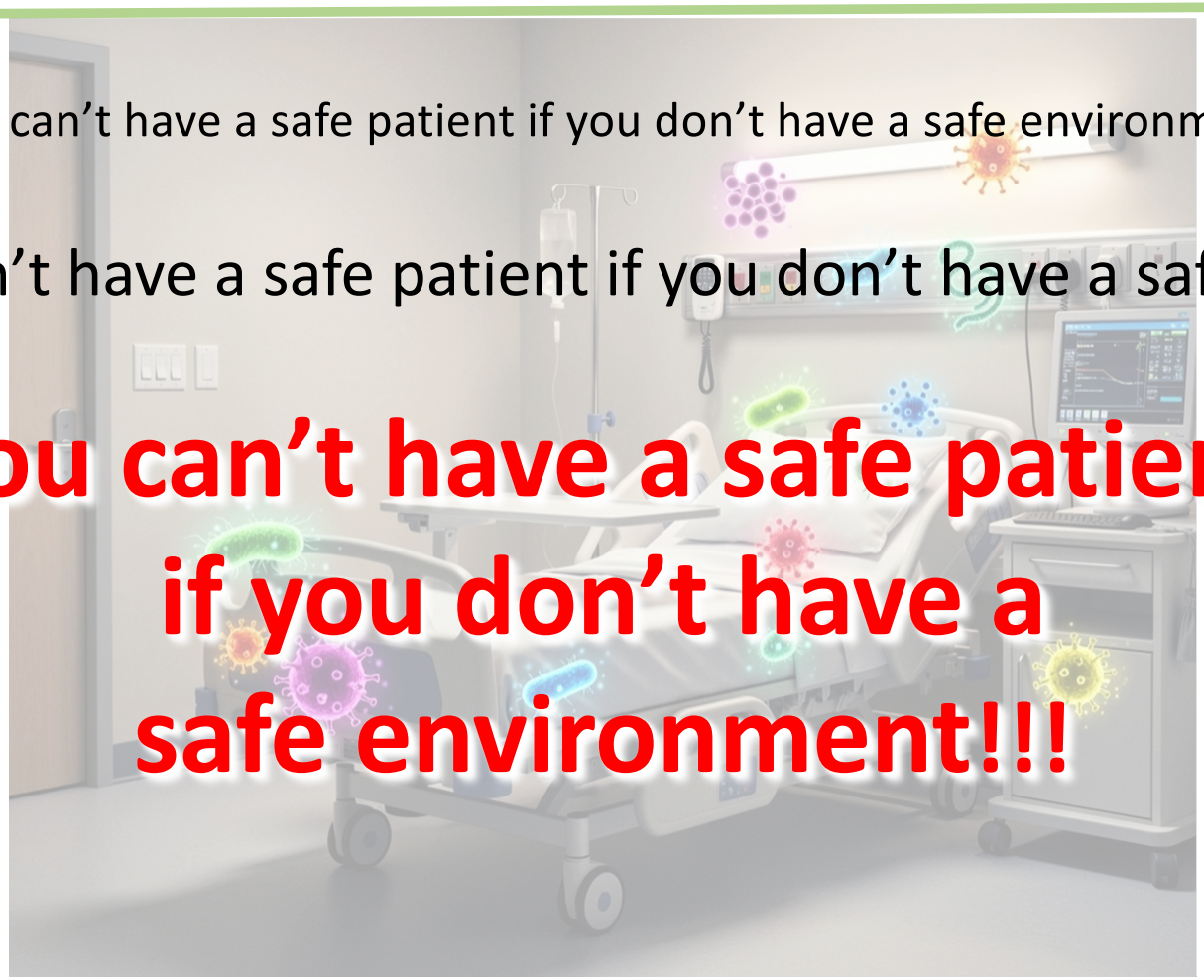
HEH In patient safety…

You can’t have a safe patient if you don’t have a safe environment!

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HEH In patient safety…

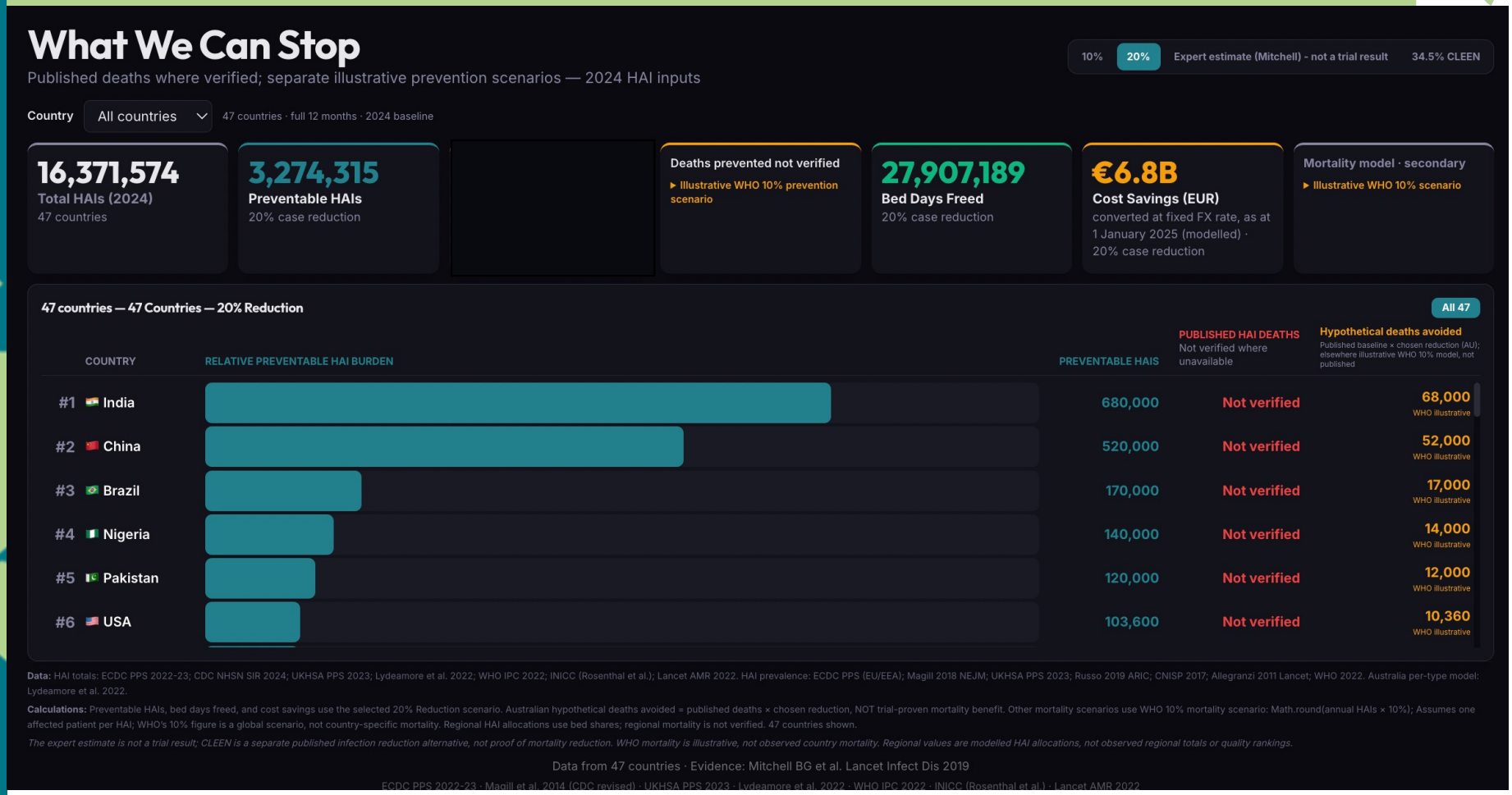


You can’t have a safe patient if you don’t have a safe environment!

You can’t have a safe patient if you don’t have a safe environment!

You can’t have a safe patient if you don’t have a safe environment!!!

Preventable HAIs: 20% reduction simulation



Source: Clean Hospitals Interactive HAI Dashboard, 2026

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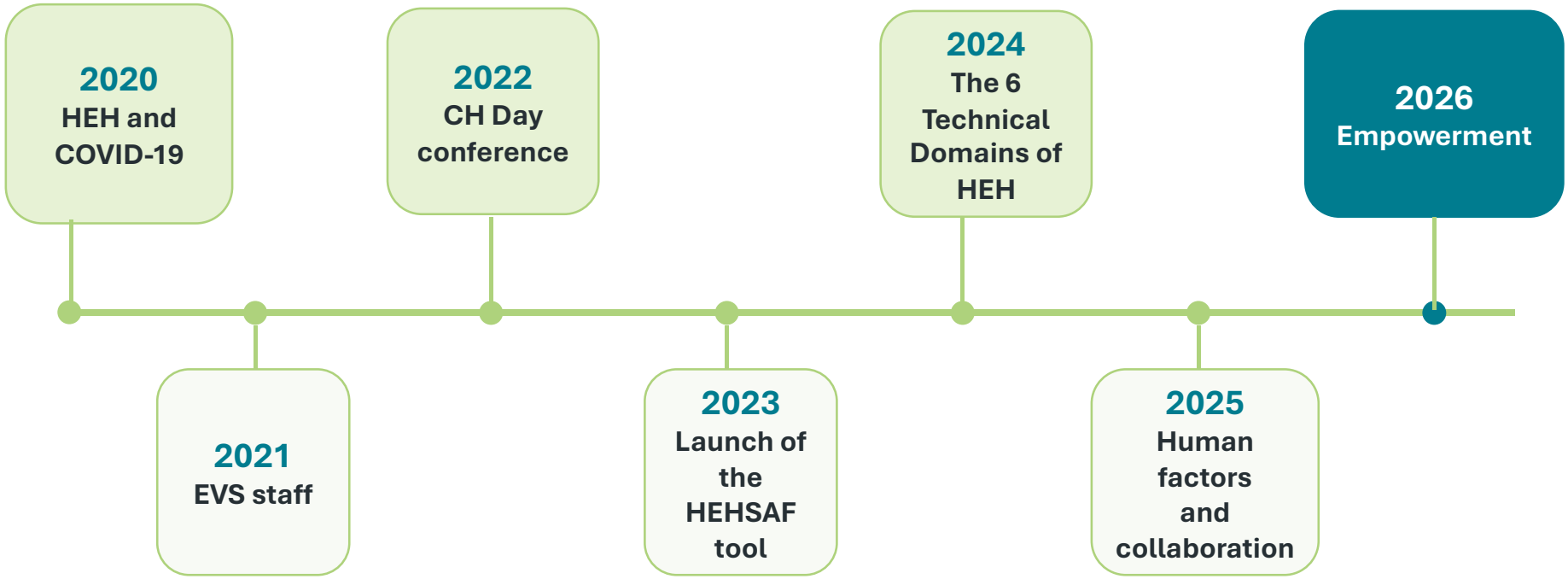
Clean Hospitals Day

- We developed Clean Hospitals Day because the importance of the healthcare environment is still largely ignored in hospitals
- The role of the healthcare environment in disease transmission is still understudied and underfunded (though this is slowly improving!)
- The people who clean need recognition as healthcare workers!
- Environmental Service (EVS) workers are usually underpaid, under-trained (or not trained at all!) and work in difficult conditions

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improving environmental hygiene practices

Clean Hospitals Day: October 20th



CH Day 2025:
Outreach & Impact

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Global HCF Engagement CH Day 2025

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IHHN Marks International Clean Hospitals Day 2025 with a Strong Call for Hygiene and Infection Prevention

Updated on October 25, 2025

The **Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN)** observed **International Clean Hospitals Day** on **October 23, 2025**, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to creating a safe, clean, and infection-free healthcare environment for all.

Organized by IHHN's **Department of Infection Control and Housekeeping**, the celebration featured a variety of awareness activities and staff engagement stalls aimed at promoting cleanliness and infection prevention practices across the hospital. Through interactive displays and educational demonstrations, staff and visitors were encouraged to adopt global hygiene standards and understand the vital role of infection control in patient safety.

The event highlighted the collaborative efforts of IHHN's Infection Control and Housekeeping teams, whose work ensures that the hospital remains a safe space for patients, attendants, and healthcare providers. Their dedication to maintaining cleanliness not only supports IHHN's operational excellence but also embodies the institution's mission to deliver **quality healthcare—free of cost and free from infection risks.**

By celebrating International Hospital Clean Day, Indus Hospital & Health Network reaffirmed its belief that maintaining cleanliness is a shared responsibility and a cornerstone of compassionate care. The observance served as a reminder that a clean hospital is not only a symbol of good management—it is a promise of protection, dignity, and well-being for every individual who walks through its doors.



Global HCF Engagement CH Day 2025

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Global HCF Engagement CH Day 2025

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Global HCF Engagement CH Day 2025

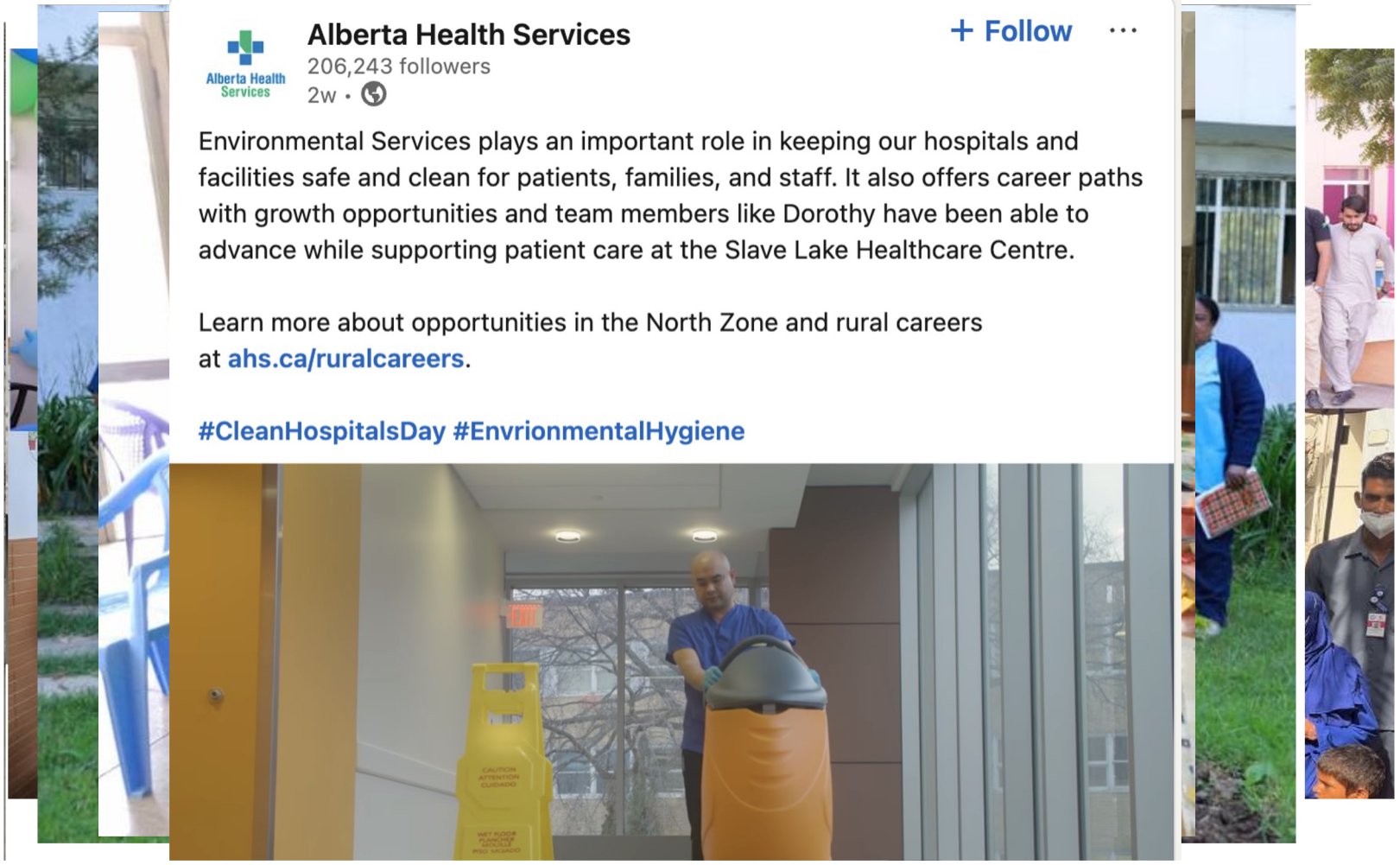
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CANADA

COLOMBIA



Encuentro Departamental de Hospitales Limpios

Global HCF Engagement CH Day 2025

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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement

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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement

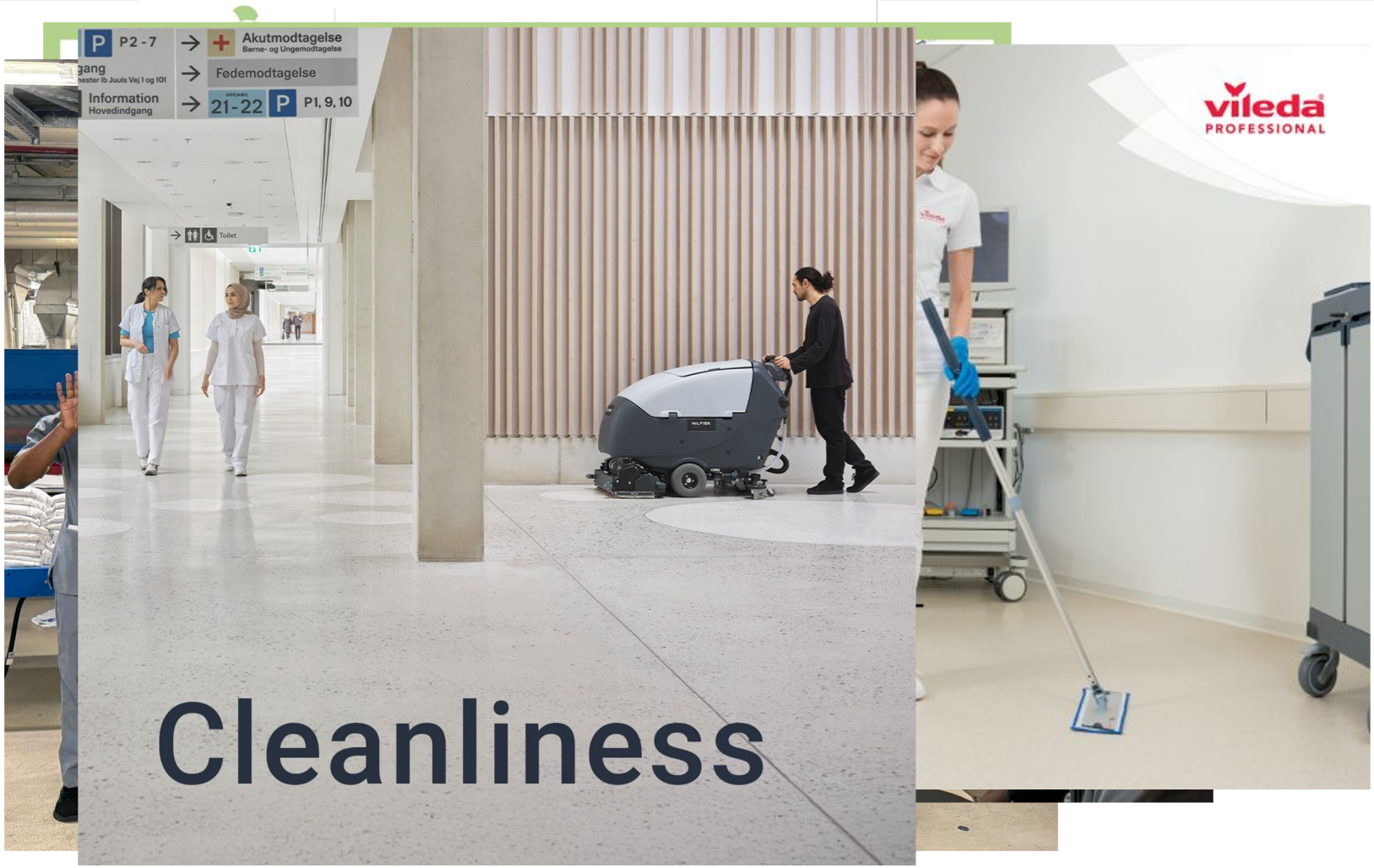


2025 Organization and Industry Engagement



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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement



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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement



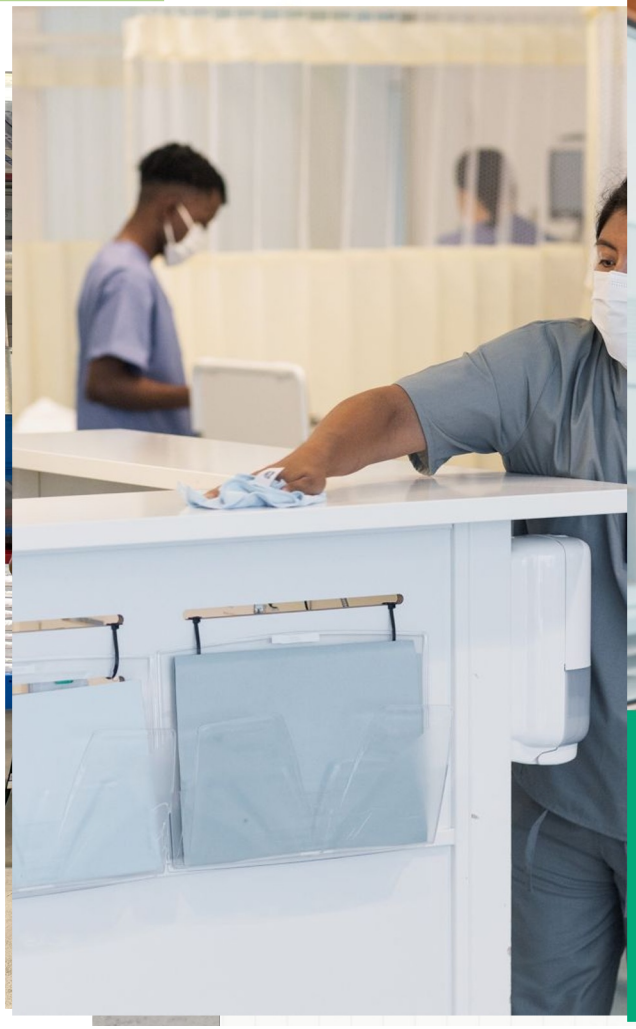
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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement



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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement





20 October 2025

Clean Hospitals Day

This Clean Hospitals Day, B. Braun celebrates those who make safer care part of every patient's journey.

B|BRAUN
SHARING EXPERTISE

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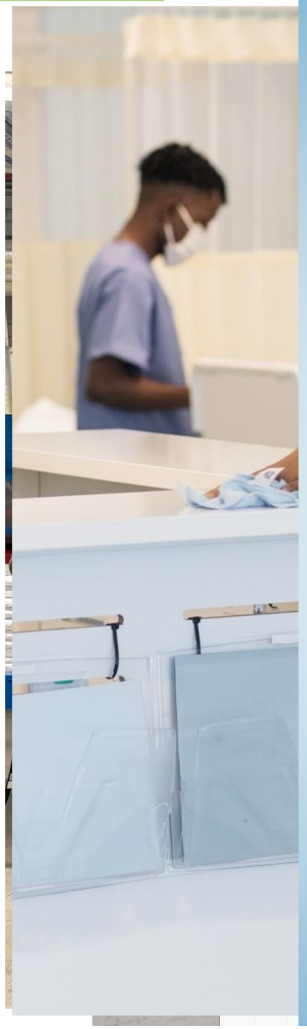
2025 Organization and Industry Engagement



B|BRAUN
SHARING EXPERTISE

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2025 Organization and Industry Engagement

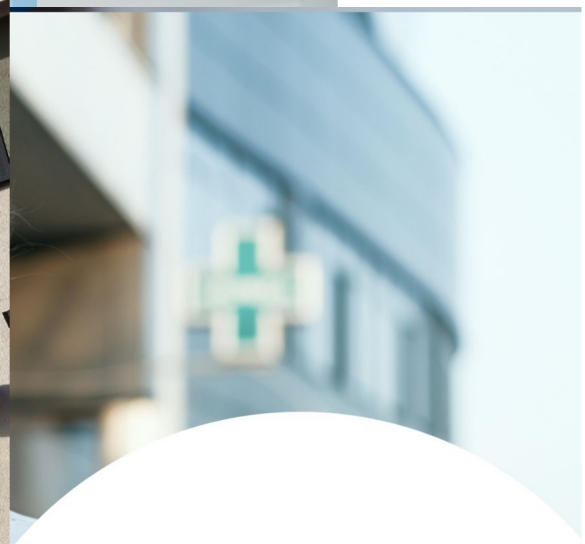






2025 Organization and Industry Engagement





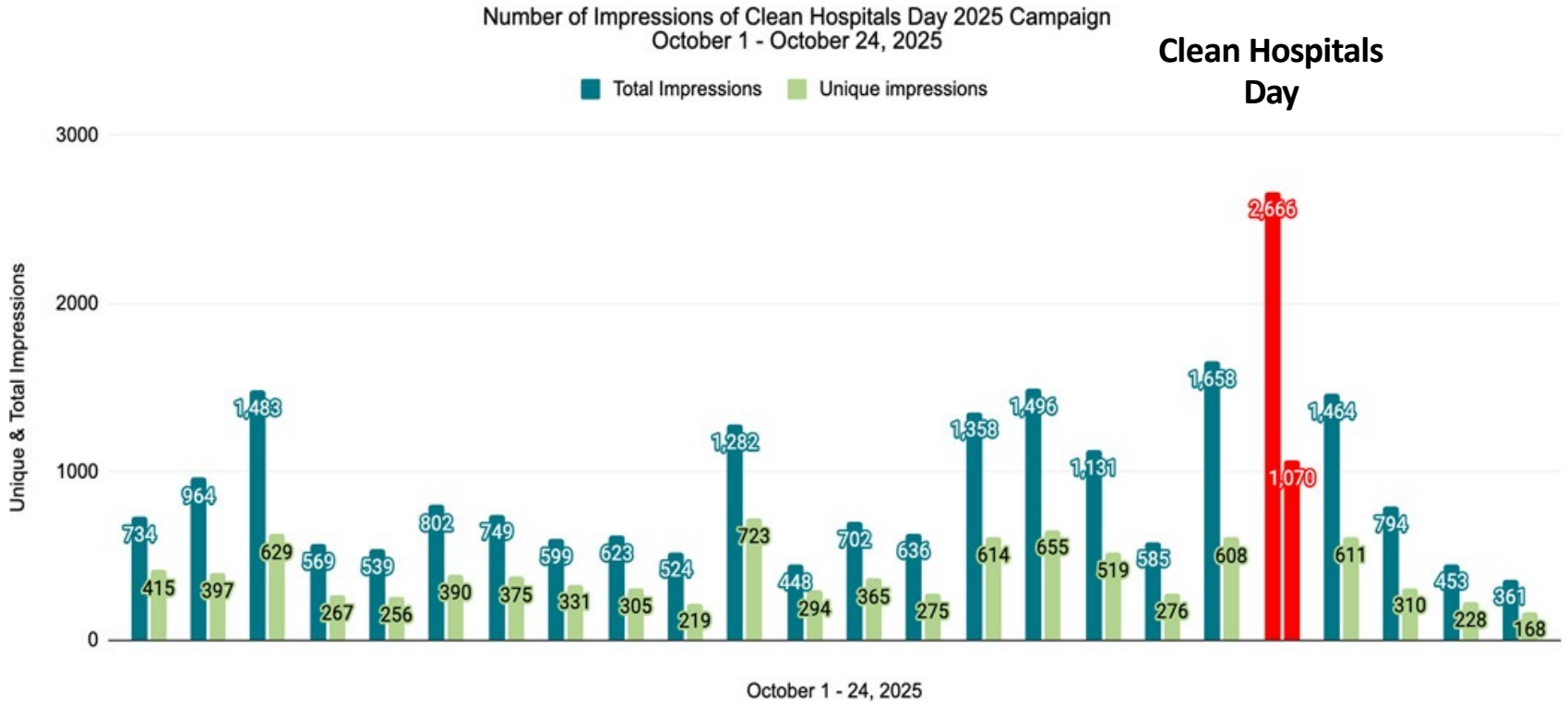
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Clean Hospitals Day

Raising awareness for healthcare environmental hygiene

CH Day 2025 Results - Impressions

Clean Hospitals Day is gaining momentum on linkedin!



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Empowerment

The meaning of empowerment is the **act or action of empowering someone** or something : the granting of the **power, right, or authority to perform various acts or duties**. - *Merriam Webster*

Empowerment is the **degree of autonomy and self-determination** in people and in communities. This enables them to **represent their interests** in a **responsible** and **self-determined** way, acting on their **own authority**. It is the process of becoming **stronger and more confident**… - *Wikipedia*

Empowerment is the process of **gaining freedom and power** to do what you want or to **control what happens to you**. - *Cambridge Dictionary*

Empowerment is a noun that means the act or process of **giving someone the authority** or ability to do something. - *Oxford English Dictionary*

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Empowerment

Is something you DO or GIVE to someone else

What:

Power Autonomy Right
Self-determination
Authority Freedom

To:

Perform various acts or duties
Represent their own interests
Control what happens to them

How:

Responsibly
Under their own authority

Outcome :

Self-determined
Stronger
More confident

Lack of empowerment in EVS

- Inadequate training/education
- Low wages
- High turnover rate
- Lack of motivation
- No certification
- Language barrier
- Occupational hazards



EVS workers are often treated like housekeeping staff in the service industry: not adequately trained, integrated, or compensated in accordance with their importance as essential frontline healthcare workers

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Structural elements of Empowerment

Studying empowerment in the workplace started in the 1970s

Kanter et al. published a seminal paper on the structural elements of empowerment

These are:

- Opportunity
- Information
- Support
- Resources
- Formal power
- Informal power



Kanter argued that people's behavior and commitment and quality of their work was more dependent on their empowerment through the six structures that they had access to in the workplace, and less on the individuals' personalities

Kanter, R. M. *Men and Women of the Corporation*. (Basic Books, New York, NY, 1977).

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Psychological empowerment and an integrated model

In the 1990s Spreitzer et al. founded the idea of psychological empowerment, which includes: meaning, competence, self-determination and impact

A few years later, Laschinger et al. combined the two, applied this theory to nursing, and found that both structural and psychological empowerment can predict outcomes such as job satisfaction, commitment and lower burnout

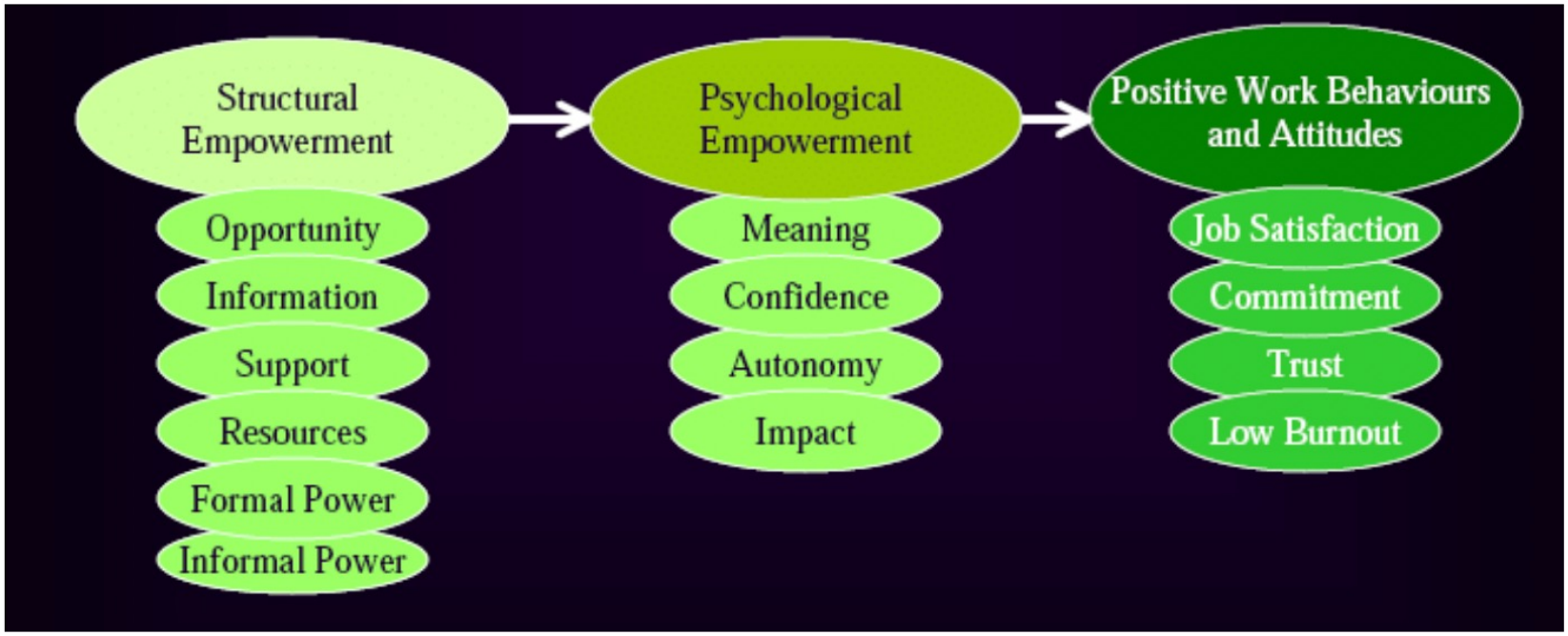


Spreitzer, G. M. (1995). Psychological empowerment in the workplace: Dimensions, measurement, and validation. *Academy of Management Journal, 38*(5), 1442–1465.

Laschinger, H. K., Finegan, J., Shamian, J. & Wilk, P. Impact of structural and psychological empowerment on job strain in nursing work settings: expanding Kanter's model. *J Nurs Adm* **31**, 260–272 (2001).

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Integrated Model of Empowerment



Tenets of work empowerment. Copyright 2004 by H. K. S. Laschinger. Used

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How the Structural Elements of Empowerment could relate to HEH

Information

- Being taught the proper environmental hygiene procedures
- Access to documentation and workplace reminders

Resources

- Access to proper products and equipment
- Adequate staffing levels
- Sufficient time to complete the tasks required

Support

- Help and support from superiors and team members when needed
- Performance feedback is constructive rather than punitive

Opportunities

- Access to training and education programs
- National or local-level certification programs
- Opportunities for career advancement

Formal and informal power

- Integration with the medical team
- Ability to participate in decision-making

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How the Psychological Elements of Empowerment could relate to HEH

Meaning

- A personal identity as someone who contributes to patient safety
- A sense of belonging to the larger healthcare team

Competence

- Confidence that their knowledge is sufficient to perform their work well, in both routine and outbreak situations

Self-determination

- Staff are entrusted to work independently
- Enough competence and confidence to signal when issues arise and to alert their managers when appropriate

Impact

- An identity as part of the team that saves lives
- An understanding that performing their work well is crucial for patient safety
- The understanding that hospital activities depend directly on them

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What we know about empowerment in healthcare vs. in HEH

- There are many studies about empowerment in healthcare, especially in nursing
- But there is virtually no literature concerning EVS Workers
- Few trials have examined the EVS workforce directly; the CLEEN trial and associated papers explored EVS staff's views on feedback
- This major gap makes it more difficult to empower EVS workers or even assess the lack of empowerment that they currently have in most of their positions in most institutions

Browne K, White NM, Russo PL, et al. Investigating the effect of enhanced cleaning and disinfection of shared medical equipment on health-care-associated infections in Australia (CLEEN): a stepped-wedge, cluster randomised, controlled trial. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2024;24(12):1347–1356.
Mitchell, B. G., Browne, K., Kiernan, M., Parneix, P. & Russo, P. L. Hospital cleaning: considerations for designing and maintaining a successful environmental cleaning program. *CMI Communications* **2**, 105102 (2025).

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What we know vs. what we KNOW

The fact that people who clean and EVS workers lack empowerment is common knowledge

But until we can measure that, the issue is far more difficult to tackle



Remember:

You can't improve what you can't measure!

Empowerment and EVS workers

- Using data from the Healthcare Environmental Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework (HEHSAF), we are working to highlight the lack of empowerment of EVS workers
- Grouping the questions from the HEHSAF to their corresponding element of empowerment, and then analyzing the country-level and global-level data



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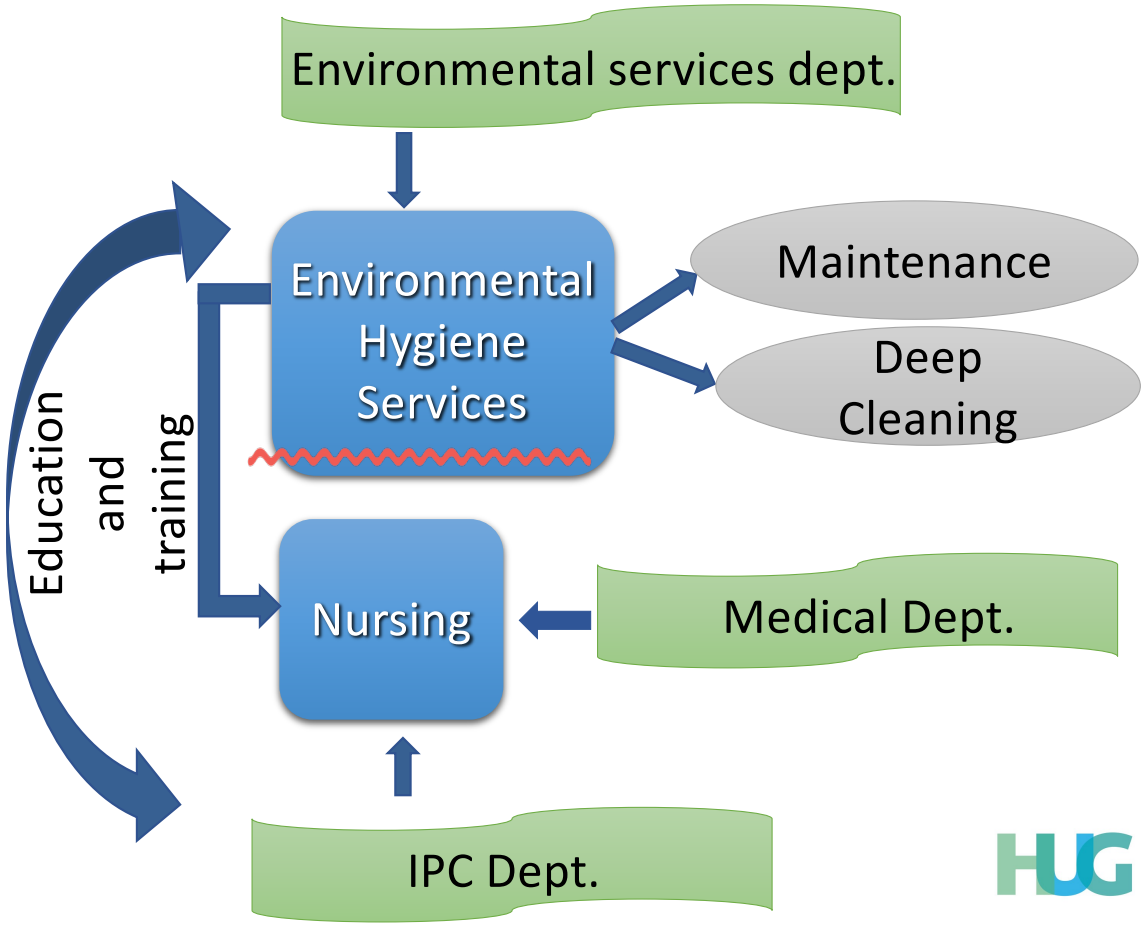
Empowerment in action

- The following slides are from the University of Geneva Hospitals (HUG) Geneva, Switzerland
- They have a very advanced HEH program that we have based some of our work on
- Disclaimer- there are obviously no resource issues in HUG, which makes this example useful but not automatically replicable in all settings



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Relationship of departments at HUG



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The 5 axes of management

1. Services: to always meet the needs and expectations of our customers

2. Collaborators: to ensure their health, safety, well-being and professional and personal development

3. Collaboration: to involve all stakeholders in our management system and communicate in complete transparency

4. Improvement loop: to maintain a high level of performance and continue to progress

5. Sustainability: to reduce the negative impacts of our activities on the environment



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HUG Hôpitaux Universitaires Genève

You need all of the fingers for the hand to work correctly…

- Main goal: prevention of health care-associated infections
- Team managers are all former EVS staff
- Official and nationally recognized opportunities for career advancement



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Validation of acquired knowledge (1)

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



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Validation of acquired knowledge (2)

Quality of the services provided:

Dedicated controller from the department

- Visual inspection: at 1 month
- Visual inspection, methodological control, ATP control: at 6 months

Knowledge transfer and collaborator autonomy :

Team manager

- Global evaluation and inspection : at 3, 9, and 18 months after employment

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Education and training: Program for specific environments

Initial program



Program for specific environments

Operating theaters
Rooms of transplant patients
Clean rooms
…

- 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

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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



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Certification in Switzerland:

National level certifications (during employment)

Level 1:

- AFP - Federal professional certification
- Part-time 8 month to 2-year program (includes mandatory general courses in reading and writing, etc.)
- EVS worker's job is professionalized- higher salary

Level 2:

- CFC -Federal certificate of capacity
- Part-time 1.5 to 3-year program
- Allows EVS worker to advance into team leader management role

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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!!

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Clean Hospitals Day 2026

- Seven posters in total
- Numerous other materials for social media
- Translation into 22 languages
- You are invited to download the material, and promote CH Day Celebration in your hospital and on your social media channels



Meet Bugly!

Clean Hospitals Day 2026 partners

Webber Training® 25 YEARS
TELECLASS EDUCATION FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Infection Control TODAY®

APIC®
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

International Infection Prevention Week



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improving environmental hygiene practices

Clean Hospitals Day 2026 Main Poster



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters

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#EnvironmentalHygiene #CleanHospitalsDay #RateYourHEH



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Clean Hospitals Day 2026 posters



Multi-Language Materials Available for Download



clean hospitals Day
improving environmental hygiene practices

Selfie Boards: Multiple designs to download, sign and share on Social Media using the hashtags



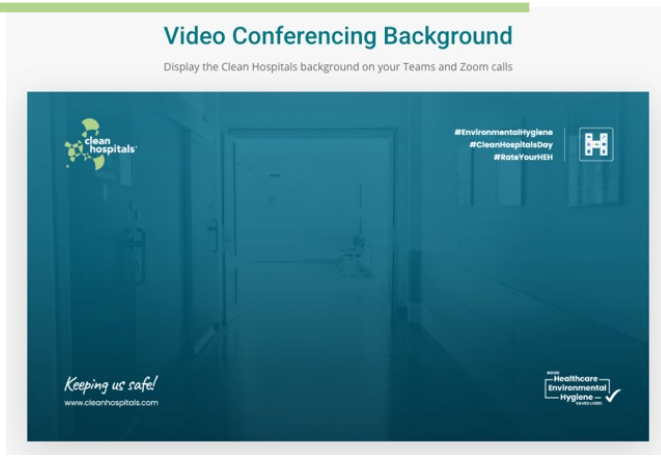
Clean Hospitals Day 2026- animation



Social media materials













How to engage!!



- Support celebrations in hospitals
- Share photos or videos of your team's activities on social media using **#CleanHospitalsDay2026**
- Promote the campaign using materials from the Promotional Toolkit,



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)

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Resources Available

- **Promotional Toolkit:** https://cleanhospitals.com/promotional-toolkit-2026/
- **Multi-Language Posters:** https://cleanhospitals.com/promotional-toolkit-2026-multilanguage/
- **Calendar of Upcoming Events:** https://cleanhospitals.com/calendar-of-events/
- **Clean Hospitals LinkedIn:**

  https://www.linkedin.com/company/cleanhospitals/posts/?feedView=all
  - **Tag us** @CleanHospitals & use **#CleanHospitalsDay #EnvironmentalHygiene #RateyourHEH**
- **Take the HEHSAF:** https://cleanhospitals.com/hehsaf/

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Thank you!



THANK YOU
for 2,700 followers!

Keep raising HEH Awareness &
Strengthening HCF Engagement Worldwide!

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25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

THU
8

October 8 @ 1:30 pm EDT

Barriers and Facilitators to the Use of PPE in Long Term Care

Christian Tsang, University of Calgary

Free



WED
21

October 21 @ 1:30 pm AEDT

(Australasian Teleclass) The HAPPEN Study – Hospital Acquired Pneumonia PrEveNtion

Prof. Brett Mitchell, Avondale University, Australia

Free



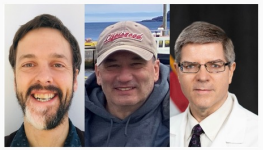
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October 22 @ 1:30 pm EDT

Discussion: Three Wise Men on Disinfection

Dr. Jon Otter, Imperial College London, and **Dr. Curtis Donskey**, Cleveland VA Medical Center, and **Prof. Jean-Yves Maillard**, Cardiff University

Free



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29

October 29 @ 1:30 pm EDT

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Transform Infection Prevention and Control: Evidence, Barriers, and a Practical Decision-Support Framework

Presented by the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC)
Silvana Gastaldi, Independent Researcher, Italy, **Dr. Ermira Tartari Bonnici**, University of Malta, and **Giovanni Satta**, University College London Hospitals

IFIC
International Federation of *Infection* Control

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