

## 7 Sins of Suboptimal Disinfecting and How to Mitigate Them

Highlighted below are seven disinfecting challenges hospitals face, or the "seven sins of disinfecting."



1. Germs are invisible so it can be difficult to know if pathogens have been killed just by looking at a surface.

2. Staff members and housekeeping workers sometimes have concerns about the safety of the disinfectants hospitals use and their potential to cause eye, skin and respiratory irritation or damage. Due to their reservations, they might not use disinfectants properly.

3. Some cleaning and disinfecting products are harsh on hospital surfaces and equipment and can shorten the lifespan of the hospital's assets, which cost money to replace.

4. When the time it takes for a disinfectant to dry is shorter than the product's contact kill time, pathogens aren't completely killed, increasing the risk for patients.

5. If disinfectants aren't used with compatible cleaning tools, their efficacy might decrease.

6. When clear roles and responsibilities between hospital staff and housekeeping services are not defined, assumptions might be made and some surfaces and pieces of equipment might not get cleaned at all.

7. Storing disinfectants in an area where they are not readily available or visible may decrease the likelihood disinfecting compliance will be met.

**Contact your MedAssure Representative for a copy of the ICU complete article and actions to combat suboptimal disinfecting.**

## Nearly half a million Americans suffered from Clostridium difficile infections in a single year

Click on this link to get the study:

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0225-clostridium-difficile.html>

## Preparing for Phase 2 HIPAA Audits: It's All About the Documentation

The launch of Phase 2 HIPAA audits is imminent. Although any individual hospital has only a small chance of getting audited, preparation helps protect a hospital if it is ever investigated for potential HIPAA violations. In large part, that preparation should focus on ensuring that the documentation of compliance is complete and without deficiencies.



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will soon begin a second phase of audits of covered entities and business associates evaluating compliance with the HIPAA privacy, security, and breach notification rules. OCR recently announced a slight pause before commencing the audits and a shift in focus, which makes this a perfect time for a hospital to perform a HIPAA compliance check-up to ensure that it is ready if selected for a Phase 2 audit.

**Contact your MedAssure Representative for a copy of the complete article.**



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