

Just how efficacious are the cleaning and disinfection interventions performed in healthcare institutions?



And what standard are hospitals using to evaluate cleaning efforts? While it has been suggested that the food industry cleanliness standard (surface bioburden level of <2.5 cfu/cm²) be adopted in healthcare as an indication of relative cleanliness, there is still a lack of conclusive evidence that these levels of contamination relate to the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

A historical review to place this topic in perspective is in order here. As Dancer (2004) observed, “There may be a link between dirty hospitals and the rising numbers of hospital-acquired infections but there is little evidence to be able to substantiate this at present ... Unfortunately, the mechanisms for evaluating the quality of hospital cleaning regimens are limited.”

Contact your MedAssure Representative for a copy of the complete article and actions to improve your cleaning methods.

HIPAA Compliance Audits Remain on Hold

During an April 15 session at the HIMSS 2015 Conference in Chicago, a regional official from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights told attendees the next phase of the random HIPAA audit program "is under development." Attorney Alessandra Swanson, an OCR team leader from the agency's Chicago office, declined to say whether there's a potential timeline for when OCR expects to kick off the next round of HIPAA audits, or what the program might look like.



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

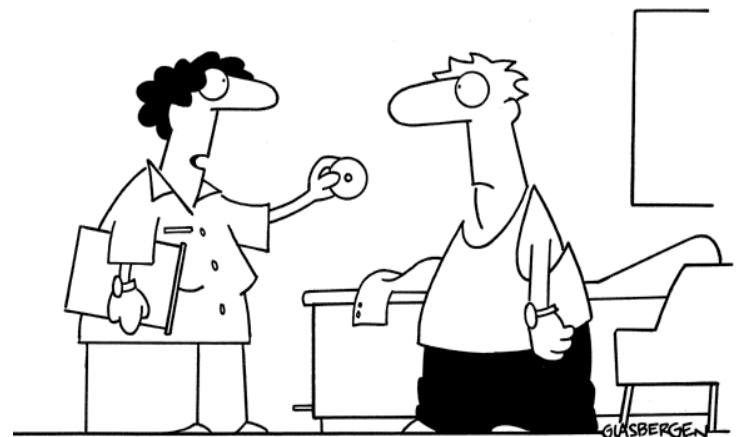
Alcohol-based disinfectant vs. hand washing: Which fights noroviruses better?

A study in *The Journal of Hospital Infection*, "Reducing viral contamination from finger pads: handwashing is more effective than alcohol-based hand disinfectants," concluded washing hands with soap and water is a better option than using alcohol-based disinfectants to remove noroviruses. Researcher Erwin Duizer, PhD, head of Enteric Viruses Centre at the Centre for Infectious Diseases Control and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in The Netherlands, spoke with *MedicalResearch.com* about the study, saying:



"Often, the use of alcohol-based hand hygiene products will contribute to reduced spread of many pathogens, including bacteria, enveloped viruses and rotavirus. However, many non-enveloped viruses such as noroviruses and enteroviruses, are quite resistant to alcohols and may require strict hand washing to prevent transmission."

Contact your MedAssure Representative for a copy of the study abstract.



**“I can install this virus software if you bend over.
But a flu shot would be easier for both of us.”**

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