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Products and services news

Back to basics with infection control

Wash your hands! This is the first crucial step for infection control and, no matter how sophisticated or crucial the next step of cleanliness may be, whether it is in a sterile environment or a simple task of making a cup of tea, it all begins with washing your hands – the cheapest and simplest start to achieving effective infection control.

The next level of infection control is to clean the items we use. At ward level, whether items need to be sterilised or disinfected, they first need to be washed. This cleaning can be done manually or mechanically.

Apart from the fact that with manual cleaning the high temperatures required for disinfection cannot be achieved, it also poses a significant occupational health and safety risk.

The DEKO-190 – a revolutionary machine with a patented wash system – allows different items to be washed and disinfected. It is a combined washer/disinfector for bedpans, urine bottles, buckets, flower vases, kidney bowls and other items used at ward level that need disinfecting and are often not disinfected. Traditional bedpan washers can only handle bedpans, and often just one at a time. A separate machine is needed for general washing/disinfecting. Due to the DEKO-190's patented design, however, it can handle a variety of items. In fact, many items currently not cleaned, or cleaned manually but without proper disinfection, can be put through the DEKO-190. Further, there is no need to empty bowls, pans or buckets.

Sydney's Westmead Hospital has performed extensive tests to validate European study reports and added a few Australian trials to test the DEKO-190's cleaning ability. A copy of that report is available on request.

Because of the large amount of people and equipment involved, infection control needs to be simple and effective. The DEKO-190 is a versatile cleaning tool that brings infection control back to basics – just like washing your hands.



ST VINCENT'S COMMUNITY SERVICES

Infection Control for Care Providers in the Community

■ Standards

■ Criteria

■ Guidelines

Resource package includes:

- * Ready reference
- * Standard set
- * Tiny tips.



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