INTRODUCTION
The World Health Organisation's fifth moment for hand hygiene was designed to interrupt microbial transmission between equipment in the patient zone, which is not dedicated to that patient (Sax et al., 2007). Equipment included in the patient zone is cleaned between patients to complement hand hygiene in disruption of microbial transmission between the patient zone and healthcare zone (World Health Organisation, 2009).

Reliance on understanding the geographical zones presents a challenge (Sax and Clack 2015). Where confusion exists around equipment included in the patient zone, both hand hygiene at 'moment 5' and cleaning equipment between patients may be missed, thus increasing risk of healthcare associated infection (HAII) (Hopf, 2015). HAII has been linked to non-sterile surfaces in the operating room (OR) and to non-scrubbed peripertative hands (Loftus et al., 2008).

In the OR content of the patient zone is not defined. The search for unpublished literature included a study tour to Professor Hugo Sax’s University Hospital Zurich ORs (NHS Education for Scotland, 2017).

AIM
Provide an evidence base for application of the 5th moment for hand hygiene and equipment cleaning in the OR by defining the patient zone.

METHOD
One Infection Prevention and Control Nurse (IPCN) used direct overt structured observation during full length surgical operations. In a range of specialties surgical cases were selected using non-random judgement sampling. Non-sterile objects in direct contact with the patient and touched by non-scrubbed staff immediately after touching the patient (hand contact events) were listed and tallied. Expert opinion of an IPCN and the senior peripertative nursing team were used to categorise non-sterile objects to either the patient or healthcare zone.

RESULTS
Non-sterile objects in the patient zone. The photograph shows an operating room set up to include all 57 non-sterile objects touched during all 11 observation sessions. Green dots show the 57 non-sterile objects included in the patient zone.

DISCUSSION
This novel research has contributed to the evidence base and guides application of the 5th moment for hand hygiene and equipment cleaning in the OR. Using overt observation may have introduced bias to this small study. Collaboration with peripertative staff throughout has helped the final product (Figure 4) become a useful resource to guide hand hygiene and equipment cleaning.

REFERENCES


