Building works danger on the wards - works can release high numbers of concentrated organisms

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1. Improvement issue and context

- UMHBT’s ‘Better care together’ strategy states that changes will have to made to existing facilities to ensure they are appropriate for 21st century healthcare.
- To keep the buildings in good physical condition means hospital renovation and it has been established that hospital acquired infections occur in higher numbers when hospital renovations are taking place (Pini et al, 2007).
- ‘The importance of a clean, safe environment for all aspects of healthcare should not be underestimated.’ (HBN 00-09, 2013)

2. Methods and measurement

- As part of the Infection Prevention (IP) annual plan, to maintain a clean and safe environment, the team will be involved in capital planning and supporting refurbishments and new builds.
- We work closely with the wards discussing decluttering, cleanliness, safe storage of equipment and patient safety.
- The IP team have worked, and continue to work, closely with the estates team for IP training: we have invited external contractors to complete the same training, focusing on the guidelines that HBN 00-09 (2013) sets out. We are working with the staff on the wards so they understand the risks involved with works going on, whilst patients are on the ward.
- A poster created for training (as seen opposite)

3. Evidence of improvement

- Increased engagement from staff from clinical and non-clinical
- Wards working towards exemplary status through an internal formal audit (QAAS)
- CDI reduction (2015-16) 20 cases against trajectory of 44

4. Future steps

- To improve and sustain cohesive working relationships with estates and facilities including external contractors, ensuring full engagement with clinical staff at operational level. This work needs to be and is fully supported at board level.

References


Common organisms: Where are they found? What can they do?

- MRSA
  - MSA can live in the environment for long periods.
  - It can cause blood stream infections that are associated with high mortality rate.

- Aspergillus
  - They are spores found in many environments, released in high numbers during building works.
  - It can cause facial disease in immunocompromised patients.

- Legionella
  - Found in water - can quickly multiply in the right temperature or unused water systems
  - It can cause pneumonia and has been implicated in serious outbreaks

- Acinetobacter
  - Acinetobacter is able to survive in wet and dry environments.
  - It can survive on skin causing infections. Strains are becoming increasingly antibiotic resistant.

Environmental Safety During Building Work - works can release high numbers of concentrated organisms!

What do staff working in healthcare need to do?

- Hand hygiene - ‘WHO 5 moments’
- Patient Safety - patient placement. In particular be aware of those who are uncompromised, those with wounds and those with invasive devices
- Personal Protective Equipment - contractors & staff
- Safe storage of equipment - declutter
- Enhanced and increased cleaning - liaise with Patient Environment Services
- Monitor - audit and review the area
- Dust reduction - ensure HEP A filter vacuums are used (no brooms)
- Assessment tool for risk mitigation - DCHM Health building note 00-09 appendix 3