Improving Environmental Hygiene to Patient's Immediate Environment

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Introduction
Effective environmental hygiene can prevent and control infection in hospital. Thus minimizing patient's length of stay, patient morbidity and resulted in decreasing financial burden of hospitals. Starting from early 2012, improvement on environmental hygiene had been carried out in order to combat the challenge from multiple drugs resistant organisms (MDROs) such as Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE).

Objectives
To enhance the environmental cleansing and disinfection in clinical areas.

Methodology
1. A designated team of staff for cleansing ward environment was established with the support from hospital administrators. 2. 15 sites of patient's immediate surrounding were regarded as high touch areas (HTA) and daily cleansing was carried out. 3. Standardized Color Coding Scheme (SCCS) implementation to whole hospital since 4Q 2012 by phases. 4. Formulation of standard regarding to equipment and environmental disinfection was implemented since Dec 2012. This standard stressed on what, how, and when to clean and disinfect hospital equipment and environment. 5. Check lists were developed for training and to ensure competency standards of the cleansing staff 6. Education including briefing, on-site training, video production to train the cleansing staff 7. Use of hydrogen peroxide vaporization to disinfect equipment and isolation rooms of patient with multiple-drug resistant organisms on discharge to enhance thorough disinfection.

Result
1. Standardization of training ensures appropriate and evaluation of the competency
of the cleansing staff. 2. Using check lists and UV markers to validate the competency of cleansing served as objective indicators during assessment and education for assurance of quality. 3. The results of environmental culture that were performed before and after equipment and environmental disinfection helped to identify areas that were prone to be contaminated by MDRO. Hence, areas with the need for proper disinfection could be stressed. 4. The declining trend of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus patient in CMC was evidenced starting from May 2014 till now. 5. Hydrogen peroxide vaporization ensured thorough disinfection to equipment and environment that were difficult for human labor. 6. Positive feedback from front line staff that the cleansing team helped their wards to maintain a hygienic environment.