Introduction

Cidex OPA is most frequently used in Operating Theatre (OT) as a cold high-level disinfectant for heat-sensitive equipment. It is also a well-known occupational skin irritant and sensitizer, in regard to this; PYNEH OT has implemented a quality improvement plan for their elimination since 2014. Although much effort has been spent on this initiative, it seems that it is not easy to completely eliminate the use of Cidex OPA due to the fact that it has been widely used in different specialties. However, prompted by increasing health concerns related to its use and the pressure from ACHS recommendations; PYNEH OT is going to actualize their plan to remove Cidex OPA using in OT.

Objectives

We aimed to achieve a total elimination of Cidex OPA using in OT by 2Q 2017, so as: 1. to enhance the patient safety from anaphylaxis-like reactions in bladder cancer patients; 2. to protect the health care workers from serious health effects due to repeated exposure; 3. to eliminate toxic and sensitizing substances from the hospital environment; 4. to reduce aquatic toxicity effects to our ecosystems; 5. to reduce the direct and indirect costs of using Cidex OPA; and 6. to align with the ACHS recommendations regarding the use of Cidex OPA.

Methodology

A 4-step approach was adopted to eliminate the use of Cidex OPA involving: 1. a comprehensive survey to identify where the Cidex OPA was used; 2. a reprocessing algorithms to identify the sterilization and disinfection options for
various equipment;
3. a quality improvement priority matrix to recognize the areas for improvement; and
4. a working group to facilitate the decision making process, monitor the progress and
ensure that sterilization and disinfection standards were not compromised.

Result
1. There were altogether 105 items eliminating the use of Cidex OPA for highly
disinfection purpose. These included:
   1.1 27 flexible endoscopes;
   1.2 46 anaesthetic and respiratory equipment;
   1.3 20 ultrasonic devices; and
   1.4 5 Ophthalmic, 2 dental and 5 ENT instruments.
2. The direct and indirect cost of using Cidex OPA; that valued around HK$200,000
were saved annually.
The application of 4-step approach dedicated to this quality improvement plan not
only demonstrates an exemplary model for the benefits of change but also offers a
high potential for cost reduction in the long run. Particularly, it makes sense to
eliminate the toxic and sensitizing substances from the hospital environment when
alternatives exist that are feasible, effective and sustainable.