

Case study



The Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre continues commitment to hospital cleanliness with the Clean-Trace Clinical ATP system

Although visual assessment is currently the established method of cleanliness verification in hospitals, the use of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) bioluminescence as an effective method of rapid hygiene monitoring is increasing. The Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre in Runcorn uses the 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Clinical ATP System for hygiene monitoring to demonstrate their commitment to maintaining exceptional levels of cleanliness.

The Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre is committed to delivering first class patient care, within a safe, clean environment. Specialising in orthopaedic diagnostics and surgery, the centre has 56 beds, 4 operating theatres, and a medical imaging suite and physiotherapy department. It performs between 15 – 20 joint replacements a week, equating to approximately 13% of this type of work across Merseyside and Cheshire. Joyce Bowler, Lead Infection Control Nurse, heads the team responsible for all aspects of infection control and maintaining the 'Superbug Free Zone' record the hospital can claim.



Within weeks of introducing the Clean-Trace Clinical ATP system at the centre, the team gained buy in from Clinical Governance and Heads of Departments, along with eager acceptance from both hospital and cleaning company staff. Joyce Bowler commented: "The system has generated a real enthusiasm throughout the hospital; it's a great tool to get staff interested in, and motivated towards, improving hospital hygiene. In order to implement the system effectively it was critical for us to get our cleaning company on board, they have welcomed adoption of the system and see it as a quantitative tool for proving that the job they are doing is effective."

Joyce Bowler added: "Our patients are extremely positive towards the system as well, they are reassured that cleanliness is a high priority for the hospital. We even get approached by people outside of our organisation wanting to see what we are doing, which further enthuses staff, knowing we are early adopters of the Clean-Trace Clinical System."

Following the ethos that infection prevention is a responsibility for everyone at the hospital, the 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Clinical ATP System was passed from the Infection Control team to the ward sisters. They manage the ward hygiene of their own areas and are responsible for setting and controlling sampling programmes and targets. Using the 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Data Trending Software to report on hygiene levels across the hospital is quick and easy, yet it gives the detail and sophistication required for feeding back to Joyce Bowler, Clinical Governance and the International Board of Interhealth Care Services (UK) Ltd, the private company which operates the centre on behalf of the NHS.



Nicky Allen, Territory Manager at 3M Microbiology commented: "It's fantastic to see the enthusiasm the Clean-Trace Clinical system has generated at the centre. Staff have recognised the benefits the system can bring and now not only utilise it for routine ward hygiene management but also for auditing, to ensure cleaning regimes are effective, as a training tool, to demonstrate to patients that bed spaces are clean and to show visitors the hospital's commitment to cleanliness and infection prevention."

Currently, the Clean-Trace Clinical ATP system is the only ATP system to have received a Level 1 recommendation from the Department of Health's Rapid Review Panel (RRP). Trials of the system have been completed in seven Showcase Hospitals across England as part of the HCAI Technology Innovation Programme.

For more information call Customer Services on 01509 613191 or visit our website at www.3m.com/HospitalHygiene.