



St. Francis Medical Center

Implementing iCleanse to help protect infants in the NICU

“Parents have a false sense of security with the belief that the application of gel to their hands alone is adequate for hand hygiene.”

Background:

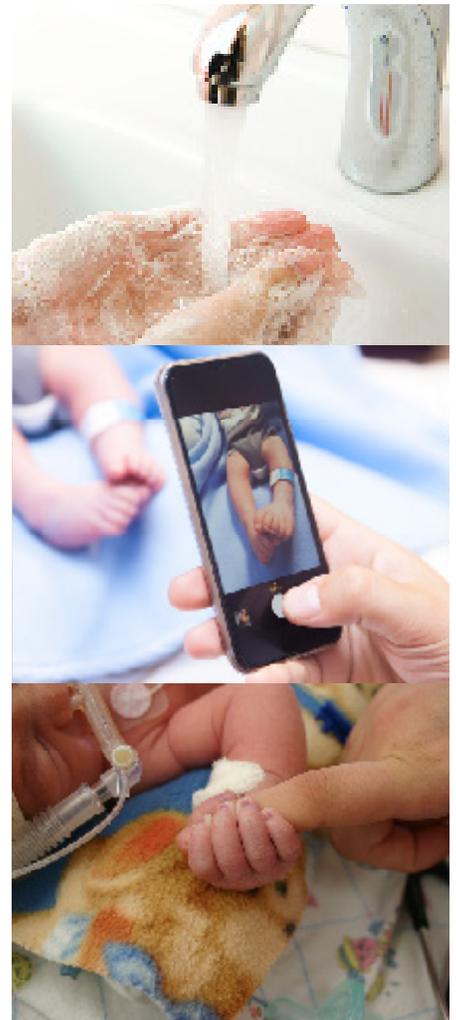
Newborns are particularly susceptible to certain diseases, much more so than older children and adults. Their new immune systems aren't adequately developed to fight bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

As a policy; parents are required to wash their hands before visiting with their baby cared for in neonatal intensive care units (NICU.) Often, parents bring their cell phones and other mobile devices into the NICU after washing their hands. These devices can harbor dangerous and potentially deadly pathogens that can undermine hand washing and create a window of risk for transferring those pathogens within the NICU.

Further, parents are often given access to shared portable devices to watch educational materials. DVD players, tablets, and other devices are shared by parents and staff throughout the day. These devices too, are potential reservoirs for dangerous pathogens.

According to a recent study parents' cell phones brought into the NICU area were contaminated at a rate of 100% (meaning every cell phone had bacteria.)

Bacterial contamination of cell phones may serve as a reservoir (fomites) for bacteria, which can cause nosocomial infections in the NICU. The study warns that bacteria transmitted from cell phone to hands may not be effectively eliminated using anti-microbial gel and potentially re-contaminate effectively cleaned hands.



Organisms that cause nosocomial infections in the NICU are commonly transmitted by hand. Development of hand hygiene and cell phone cleaning & Disinfection guideline are needed regarding bedside cell phone and tablet use.

St. Francis Medical Center (Hartford, CT) has implemented iCleanse in their NICU as part of a proactive initiative to minimize the bacteria which may be unknowingly introduced into the sensitive environment.

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center has again receive an "A" rating Hospital Safety Score from the Leapfrog Group, a national hospital quality watchdog organization. St. Francis has received an "A" rating eight times since the survey's inception in 2012 and is one of the only five Connecticut hospitals to receive an "A" rating this year.

"Mobile devices clearly carry dangerous pathogens. NICU is by nature an extremely sensitive area. We have managed to reduce our infection rate in our NICU to zero for long periods of time. iCleanse is a part of our HAI reduction initiative in the NICU." – Keith Grant, MSN, FNP, APRN

Proactively disinfecting a parent's cell phones:

"We offer families the opportunity to disinfect their phones while they are washing their hands. Families often use their phones to take pictures of their baby. The iCleanse only takes 30 seconds for most pathogens and using the device is very simple. Implementing iCleanse has made everyone feel safer and has reduced stress." – Lynne Schmittlein, RNC-NIC, MSN, NICU Nurse Manager

iCleanse can provide chemical-free, general-purpose disinfection to a mobile device in 60 seconds or less. St. Francis Medical Center has installed an iCleanse at the NICU front desk and utilizes iCleanse for disinfection of parents' phones, staff phones, pagers, tablets, and other mobile devices as needed.

The workflow for parents entering the NICU is seamless in that disinfection happens while they are washing their hands to prepare to enter the NICU and thus does not introduce an additional time step for parents. The devices are returned to the parents right before entering the NICU.

In other departments at the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, iCleanse is installed to provide the staff the ability to disinfect their own devices before leaving the facility for the day, upon arrival, or throughout the day if they have been exposed to a patient on precautions. A nurse may load up all five trays with their cell phones in one, tablet in another, pager in a third, and some are even inserting their ID badges to get them done in one step.

"When you think about hand held devices and the need to disinfect them the standard method of wipes simply cannot get to all the nooks and crannies. Utilizing UV light – liked the iCleanse, is a much better process." – Kathy Smith, Director of Infection Prevention

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor in north central Connecticut since 1897. In 2015, St. Francis became part of Trinity Health of New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, Michigan, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation serving communities in 22 states. St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center is licensed for 617 beds, is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic Hospital in New England. Other St. Francis entities include the Comprehensive Women's Health Center, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Curtis S. Robinson Center for Health Equity, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at St. Francis, and St. Francis Medical Group. Visit saintfranciscare.com for more information.

About iCleanse

iCleanse is a privately held company whose products are used around the globe to support workflow and the overall management of tablet computers in hospitals, retail, food service, and other applications that require secure storage, charging and disinfection. To learn more, visit www.icleanse.com or call 800.969.1166