

EVALUATION REPORT ON MICROFIBRE PRODUCTS

TRIAL AT ROSSENDALE HOSPITAL

FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 2004

INTRODUCTION

The ADM embarked on a project to evaluate the use of microfibre products to examine whether the use of this innovative cleaning product could improve systems of work, standards of cleanliness and assess any additional benefits.

The products available had been tested by The Medirest company in several hospitals .It was decided after the initial meeting that an additional trial be done in an NHS hospital setting.

Trial product suppliers were approached and the trials took place for a period of one month.

The report details the ward environment where the trials took place, the audit scores before, during, and after the use of the products ,the users comments and the full impact of the use of these products within a hospital environment.

TRIAL DETAILS

The trial took place on 3 wards at Rossendale Hospital. This is a 60 bed community hospital caring for elderly and psychiatric patients. Domestic staff and supervisors achieve high standards of cleanliness and are managed by a committed Hospital Manager with a Domestic Services background.

Several supply companies were either approached by ADM or volunteered to take part in the trial. The final participants were ;

Vileda Professional

Johnson Diversey

Contico

The companies were requested to train the Domestic staff on site prior to the commencement of the trials and to provide a full installation of the products.

Domestic staff and supervisors were all trained as required and staff participated in the trials very enthusiastically. Staff did use the different systems in place to allow different views to be obtained.

A 'blind' trial also took place on a fourth ward area where extra training was given to the ward Domestic and new equipment issued. The equipment was not microfibre and the blind trial was to assess the impact of increased training and attention given to staff against the benefits of introducing the new technology.

The VILED A SYSTEM was used on WARD 5 an Elderly care ward with 14 beds in a mixture of 2,3, and 4 bedded bays with single areas.

The JONMASTER System was used on WARD 6 an elderly psychiatric ward with 16 beds with 4 bedded and single bays.

The CONTICO equipment was used on Ward 1 an Nurse-led Re-habilitation Ward with 17 beds in single sex 6 bedded bays.

An on site laundry facility was accessed for the laundering of the equipment.

The chemicals and equipment in use currently at this hospital include;

- Novacare Floor Maintainer –dispensed by pelican pump
- Hospec neutral detergent (GP) “ “ “ “
- Pledge aerosol polish
- Selden Washroom Cleaner (dosing system)
- Disposable colour coded cloths
- Forshaga disposable static mopping system
- Ward domestic trolleys
- Freedom mini mopping system with do-all mop buckets. (Mops laundered daily)

RESULTS OF TRIAL

In order to assess the impact of the new products, cleaning audits were undertaken prior to the installation, during and one month following the finish of the trial.

WARD ONE-CONTICO

- **Poor training from representative and poor product knowledge**
- **Not a system just mops,buckets and cloths**
- **Mops hard to use and mop stales not appropriate**
- **Not enough equipment provided for the trial**
- **Staff liked the cloths and found them to be better than the current system with no loss in appearance during the month**
- **No visible benefits in use.**

AUDIT SCORES

BEFORE 88%

DURING 89%

AFTER 89%

WARD 5 – VILEDA QUICKSTAR AND DUO-FINN

- **Excellent training and back up from company representative**
- **Visible reduction in dust levels and cleaning standards**
- **Staff enjoyed using the system**
- **Staff were less tired from using the system during a working day**
- **Labour saving was evident therefore more time available for other duties**
- **Reduction in the amount of chemicals required as measured liquid dose ensured the minimum amount of liquid required**
- **Safe and efficient cleaning method.**
- **Ergonomically good to use as operative not required to fill and empty buckets**
- **No polish or window cleaning chemicals required**
- **Operatives scored the system at 100% better than the current one!**
- **No loss of appearance in cloths**
- **Trolley easy to use**
- **Professional system for staff**
- **One pass floor cleaning method therefore labour and materials saving**
- **Only negative comment received regarding the high dusting tool-too mobile**

AUDIT SCORES

BEFORE 92%

DURING 98%

AFTER 90%

Overall this system was the preferred one from the 3 tested

WARD 6-JONMASTER SYSTEM

- **Good training and support from company representatives**
- **Systemised cleaning**
- **Professional image for domestic staff**
- **Staff liked using the system**
- **Reduction in chemicals required**
- **Mops not as flexible as the Vileda system**
- **Trolley excellent as has variable height adjustment and lockable box**
- **Cloths left surfaces damp therefore only rated same as the current disposables in use**
- **The flat mopping system is easy to use and launder**
- **Rated better overall than the current system**

AUDIT SCORES

BEFORE 89%

DURING 92%

AFTER 90%

WARD 11-BLIND TRIAL

- **Equipment change had no impact as staff did not like the ergonomic design of the mobile buckets**
- **Additional training on frequencies and recording of periodic tasks found to be beneficial**
- **No added benefits audit score improved slightly**

AUDIT SCORES

BEFORE 77%

DURING 87%

AFTER 85%

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It was evident that staff took more pride in their work as a result of the professional image that the equipment system portrayed.
- A full evaluation is required for each site prior to final decision being made as the cost of the system will vary in proportion to the amount of hard and soft floors in situ.
- An on site laundry is required.
- Infection control staff are involved in the evaluation
- A trial is undertaken
- Some disposable cloths are still used in ward kitchen areas and ?infection areas.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of microfibre systems for cleaning will improve the standards of cleanliness if they are used alongside the recommended minimum frequencies. Staff will benefit both in the short and long term in relation to the ergonomic benefits of the system

As the equipment is laundered and used in such a way as to limit the number of areas cleaned by a single piece of equipment it means that there will be benefits in reducing cross infection.

There are health and safety benefits too as there is a reduction in the amount of chemical required, limited wetting of surfaces and the benefits to staff.