

ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE HOPITAUX DE PARIS (APHP), FRANCE

CLIN CENTRAL (National Organization for Infection Control)

Due to:

- The strong increase in the incidence of extended-spectrum δ -lactamase-producing (ESBL) Enterobacteriaceae and the emergence of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae.
- The significant role played by faeces in spreading multi-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (a patient with ESBL E. Coli will release around 10 billion bacteria through their stools in one day), as well as other bacteria spread through faecal-oral transmission (Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*, *Clostridium difficile* etc.).
- The inability of the bedpan washers used at AP-HP hospitals to clean bedpans to a satisfactory level (the bedpan models used at AP-HP are not compatible with the bedpan washers provided).

The CLIN Central recommends the following:

Healthcare professionals should:

- Wear gloves and a disposable apron whenever handling faeces (pads, bedpans, soiled laundry, etc.).
- Use disposable faecal collection bags containing an absorbent for all bedpan-using patients, particularly those carrying multi-resistant bacteria transmitted through the faecal-oral route (ESBL Enterobacteriaceae, carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae, Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* etc.) and *Clostridium difficile*.
- Never empty or rinse bedpans before they have been placed in the bedpan washer.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after removing gloves.

The following steps should be taken regarding equipment, in cooperation with the relevant technical departments:

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers should be installed near the bedpan washers.
- Hand sprays used to rinse bedpans should be removed from all rooms while making sure not to create dead legs (ie: A dead leg is a closed off valve/pipe where stagnant fluids can be trapped).
- Bedpan washers should be subject to regular maintenance, and this maintenance must be traceable.

For patients:

- An alcohol-based hand sanitizer must be used after going to the toilet and before meals.

The CLIN Central would like to remind everyone of the importance of using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to avoid the cross-contamination of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.