



Healthcare Technology Solutions to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Infections

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PrehKeyTec

the problem:

Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) currently cost healthcare facilities more than \$30 billion each year to treat. These infections are the fourth-largest killer in America, with two million patients contracting infections in hospitals each year and more than 100,000 dying annually as a result; more deaths than AIDS, breast cancer, and auto accidents combined. It is one of the costliest problems facing the healthcare industry today, and also one of the easiest to solve with the right solutions.

With an estimated two million occurrences each year, the average cost to treat each occurrence is \$15,275. That equals more than \$30.5 billion spent by hospitals annually dealing with these serious infections, according to the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths.

Other studies on the high cost of HAIs found when a patient develops an infection after surgery, the cost of care can increase up to 119%. *Staphylococcus aureus* infections are particularly costly—patients with these infections incur costs more than three times the national average hospital costs of other patients.

Initiatives in Patient Safety states three primary steps to prevent and control infections in the healthcare environment:

1. Cleaning and disinfection
2. Contact control and behaviors, such as hand washing
3. Use of antimicrobial treatment agents

“Until recently, infection was considered an inevitable risk of hospitalization,” writes Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D. “Now, there is compelling evidence that nearly all hospital infections are preventable when doctors and staff adhere to research-based guidelines.”

Environmental surfaces have often been the source of infection transmission in a healthcare facility. With mounting pressure to decrease costs, healthcare organizations must recognize the importance of investigating and effectively treating as well as preventing HAIs. Contaminated medical equipment and services can lead to outbreaks across a facility, providing yet another incentive for organizations to treat and control the number of HAIs in their facilities.

the solution:

Preventative care and maintaining a clean, clutter-free patient environment can dramatically reduce the occurrence of HAIs. Encouraging hand washing throughout the facility, as well as implementing rigorous cleaning and disinfection strategies for medical equipment can greatly reduce the amount of microorganisms transferred from caregivers and visitors to the patient.

“In every patient’s room, the environment and inanimate objects are contaminated with potential HAI pathogens, regardless of the efficacy of environmental or inanimate object cleaning,” explains William Jarvis, MD, in *Initiatives In Patient Safety*. “To prevent HAI transmission healthcare personnel should insure...that the patient’s environment is clean, clutter-free and they should minimize sharing of medical equipment between patients.”

The PrehKeyTec GTK86 keyboard series stands up to even the most rigorous disinfectants to keep germs at bay, and features an integrated glide pad to eliminate the need for a mouse and reduce the amount of surfaces to be disinfected.

PrehKeyTec's GTK86 can withstand the chlorine-based cleaning agents necessary to remove the various pathogens that come into contact with medical surfaces. Combined with evidence-based guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched hospital surfaces and medical equipment that comes into the immediate vicinity of the patient, utilizing healthcare-ready technology such as the GTK86 series from PrehKeyTec can improve the outcome for many different types of healthcare facilities to decrease infection rates.

implementation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a holistic approach for the prevention of HAIs, from hospital management and physicians to housekeeping and maintenance staff. Hospital management should delegate the technical aspects of hospital hygiene to the appropriate staff, and participate in outbreak investigation when necessary.

Physicians and nurses can minimize infection by protecting patients from other infected individuals, and advising on techniques to prevent transmission of infections. It is imperative that housekeeping staff develop policies for appropriate cleaning techniques, as well as collection, transport and disposal of different types of waste. In addition, simple tasks—such as ensuring liquid soap and paper towel dispensers are regularly replenished—can support reduced HAI rates as well.

PrehKeyTec's GTK86 keyboards can be used at nurse stations and in patient rooms to improve data input and maintain a superior level of cleanliness. They offer the functionality of a standard keyboard with the touch technology of a tablet. The GTK86 series can be operated while wearing surgical gloves, and features a smooth glass surface that is resistant to acid, hand perspiration, dust and fluids.

healthcare end users:

By reducing the occurrence of HAIs, healthcare facilities can also reduce costs associated with treating HAIs. With proper prevention, organizations can improve quality of care provided to patients and create the clean, refreshing atmosphere of healing most patients have come to expect from their healthcare providers.

Combining quality design, advanced technology, and compliance with disinfection policies, PrehKeyTec's GTK86 series of keyboards can maintain a high level of care throughout the medical environment. From placement at nurse stations, to individual use in patient rooms, these solutions can decrease the amount of surfaces microorganisms may come in touch with and provide a cleaner tool for employees to spend more time caring for their patients and improving their overall wellness.

var results:

Healthcare vertical value-added resellers recognize the importance not only of improving patient-centered care for their medical clients, but also helping them decrease costs and improve efficiency across all levels of their organization. By offering complete solutions with the PrehKeyTec GTK86, Value-Added Resellers can help their customers decrease the rate of HAIs and improve the level of care provided to patients. In addition, the extremely rugged design of the GTK86 reduces downtime over the long term.

The need to prevent HAIs is prevalent across nearly all healthcare market segments, from hospitals to laboratories, nursing homes to ambulatory care facilities, independent and assisted living to dentist and even veterinary offices. VARs who offer solutions across this wide range of health and medical applications can better serve their customers and keep up with the ever-expanding nature of the industry.

Keeping patients healthy and preventing the additional costs of return visits and HAIs is the healthcare provider's job, and VARs can make this mounting task simple and efficient with the right technology and cleanliness solutions.

bluestar healthcare:

The healthcare vertical is an intricate market including acute (hospital) and non-acute (non-hospital) segments. Hospitals are a large market for IT solutions, but most of the opportunities are in non-acute ambulatory care facilities. Solutions in healthcare are available in all segments.

BlueStar is committed to providing our valued partners with leading industry knowledge, tools and support to enable them to discover new and lucrative revenue streams. Our Healthcare Initiative assists resellers who currently sell into the healthcare marketplace as well as those interested in acquiring the skills needed to thrive in this growing vertical. Healthcare is full of opportunity—it's constantly expanding and is less sensitive to economic fluctuations.

BlueStar also offers many other solutions that can be utilized within healthcare vertical markets. Examples include mobile solutions for visiting nurses and home healthcare, patient self-registration kiosks, prescription printers, healthcare digital signage, payment processing terminals and point-of-sale systems for hospital and assisted living, pharmacies, cafeterias, and gift shops. We offer a wide array of products and services that play a significant role in the healthcare market, designed to help VARs sell healthcare products more efficiently and more effectively.

prehkeytec solutions:

PrehKeyTec is a leading manufacturer of advanced data input devices. Our solutions are installed in demanding operating conditions requiring high quality products with long-term performance, configuration flexibility and exceptional reliability. PrehKeyTec data entry solutions have been selected by major OEM suppliers, VARs, and End Users. These solutions add value to any application by optimizing return on investment and preventing disruption to customer service.

conclusion:

The best treatment for Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) is prevention, and the right technology equipment can help healthcare organizations maintain high levels of cleanliness and quality patient care while managing costs. The PrehKeyTec GTK86 series is designed to meet this need by decreasing the number of surfaces to be disinfected and improving employee efficiency. It also includes an integrated touchpad, eliminating the need for a mouse and further reducing surfaces for disinfection. PrehKeyTec's GTK86 keyboards can be used at nurses' stations or even in individual patient rooms, withstanding even the most intensive disinfectant processes and cleaning solutions.

And now for a limited time, healthcare VARs can request a free 30-day evaluation of the PrehKeyTec GTK86 from BlueStar Healthcare Solutions. Show your healthcare, medical and wellness customers how to save time and money preventing Hospital Acquired Infections with the right data entry solutions from PrehKeyTec and BlueStar, your solutions distributor. Contact a BlueStar representative at 1-866-830-0140 or visit our website at us.bluestarinc.com/healthcare.

resources:

Arias, Kathleen Meehan. "Contamination on Hospital Surfaces and Medical Equipment." *Initiatives in Safe Patient Care*. Volume 4. Online: <http://www.initiatives-patientsafety.org/>

McCaughey, Betsy. Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths (RID). "Unnecessary Deaths: The Human and Financial Costs of Hospital Infections." Third Edition, 2008.

World Health Organization (WHO). "Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Infections: A Practical Guide." 2nd edition, 2002.