

CHANGE OVER TO MEDI-SHOWER AT NDDH

As part of the Trusts policy for the control of Legionella Bacteria in Water Systems, the Maintenance Department carried out regular cleaning/disinfection of Shower Heads and Hoses. This cleaning process was contracted out to a reputable local company, who on completion, would certify the shower heads cleaned for a period of three months. This operation, which covered NDDH and it's associated Northern Community Hospitals, was carried out on a quarterly basis.

As this process was very costly, fully compliant alternatives were sought, which would be lower in cost and contribute to the Maintenance Department's CIP.

During a visit to the 2013 IHEEM Conference in Manchester, I had discussions with a company called Eplus Global. At the time they were working in association with a company called Medi-Shower, who were developing a new anti-microbial, water saving shower head. This shower head was designed specifically for use in the healthcare sector and comprised of a silver ion impregnated plastic shower head and hose, with a colour coded removable spray insert. The spray insert is replaced quarterly with a new insert, which is colour coded for that quarter. An insert identification chart is available to mount on the wall, visibly showing which coloured insert should be in the head for each quarter. This provides a very clear visual aid to ensure that the right head is in use. The inserts are recyclable and used ones can be sent back to EPlus for disposal.

During the following Twelve Months a series of meetings, demonstrations, discussions and investigations were undertaken, in order for the Trust to gain assurance that this new system was viable. In January 2015, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, with the backing of it's Infection Control Department, purchased and installed 179 Medi-Showers. The new shower heads and hoses were easily installed by our own DLO and have been in full use since their installation.

The control of shower head cleaning at NDDH is driven by PPM's produced on our Computerised Maintenance System, issued quarterly. The new shower head inserts are of a Bayonet type fitting, changed in seconds with a simple Key and carried out by semi-skilled staff. The simple colour coding shows if any have been missed or a wrong insert fitted.

We did have some initial problems with the shower hoses kinking and restricting water flow, when hand using the shower heads. On notification of our problem, Christie Allen of Medi-Shower, immediately came over to NDDH from Ireland, we discussed the problems with our Nursing Staff and came up with a solution. Christie

manufactured a prototype, which was trialed and proved successful. All of our shower hoses are now longer in length and fitted with swivel connectors. No more kinking and our Nursing staff are very happy with them.

The annual cost per Medi-Shower head for a 5 year control plan, multiplied by the number of shower heads (179) we currently treat and taking into account our internal labour costs, is approximately 75% less than when this work was contracted out. This has the potential to save the Trust around £35k over the next 5 years.

The Trust is also benefiting from the Anti-Bacterial system these showers provide, lower Maintenance Costs, a reduced risk of Infection, savings on Water and Energy and an easy to clean retro fit system.

The Medi-Shower Heads and Hoses have been installed for 9 months now and so far have proved to be successful. They are now performing as expected and to date, appear to have been a good investment for the Trust.

We are now turning our attention to Anti-Ligature fixed Head showers.

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