



Venlo, the Netherlands, 28 April 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The global estimation is 10% human carriers of Multi Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) and 10-20 % carriers of *Clostridium difficile*, often spread by (liquid faeces. In literature the toilets and commodes are mentioned as sources during outbreaks, but unfortunately little publication about the use of the bedpans.

My global survey in 2010 demonstrates the risk of 4-21% of Healthcare Associated Infections. The majority of the survey responders did not take this issue into account during outbreaks, what means that the risk can be higher.

Because the world is running out of treatment with effective antibiotics the focus is more and more on prevention and basic measures as cleaning and disinfection (like hand hygiene) what APIC also recommend.

The USA HICPAC Guidelines Cleaning and Disinfection (2008), still follows the Spauldings scheme of 1968, what says bedpans are low risk. The authors missed the heavy bacterial load with MDRO in the bedpans and urine bottles, what cause a huge risk of transmission and contamination by splatters splashes and aerosols, during manual empty, cleaning and disinfection bedpans and urine bottles, in hospitals and all healthcare settings. The time is ripe to bring this under the attention among all the healthcare workers and special among the infection prevention and control specialists.

Most guidelines in many countries do not mention this problem and give only weak recommendations about faecal matters.

Many associations set up infection prevention guidelines based on the US recommendations.

Therefore I strongly advice the all Directors and Officers of the European professional Infection Control; Associations, to consider this severe problem. Every country should make a guide for optimal bedpan management which can be used by so many other professional infection prevention and control organizations in the world.

Patients and healthcare workers in the frontline will benefit from it.

I am happy to serve you with more information if needed.
Waiting for your reply.

Warm regards

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