

Case Study

St Bart's Hospital London

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St Bart's is the UK's leading internationally renowned teaching hospital and one of the largest hospital trusts in London.

As is the case in hospital trusts across the country effective infection control is a primary aim of St Bart's Trust. Huge

efforts and resources are allocated each year by the Trust to achieving this aim. However by the very nature of our task and as a result of many situations beyond the control of the trust incidences of heightened bacterial load do sometimes arise. Keeping this level of incidence down to a manageable and safe level is an ongoing task and the trust has proved to be very successful in this area. As a result Skanska's policy of continual development and innovation striving towards an ever safer environment for our patients we embarked on a policy of targeting specific risks in an attempt to reduce the pseudomonas to zero. This was initially regarded as a very optimistic target and not one that was going to be easily achievable.

With this in mind Skanska began by identifying high risk areas in which we might be able to impact quickly and efficiently. The first of which were identified as the showers. These were identified as high risk areas which had recorded flare ups of pseudomonas, identified from our routine testing regime. This was often traced back to contact by patients with a limited knowledge of infection control protocols, which although dealt with quickly and efficiently proved to be an intermittent problem and one that would prove difficult to manage. This seemed the ideal area to trial solutions.

The Challis Ag+ anti-bacterial disposable shower and hose scheme was quickly identified as a product solution that may help in achieving the trusts target of zero incidence of pseudomonas in our nominated area.

Challis provided disposable anti-bacterial showers and hoses that are replaced every quarter in preference to a quarterly deep clean. As well as removing from the hospital every 12 weeks any likelihood of bacterial load the units anti-bacterial capability provide 24/7 anti-bacterial protection through the interim period which standard shower heads and hoses lack and was identified as the main cause of bacterial proliferation.

The Challis Ag+ units proved to be an immediate success as the units were regularly monitored for a full spectrum of bacterial load all of which returned as non-detectable. As a control some original shower heads and hoses were left in situ and monitored and as expected returned intermittent flare ups of pseudomonas.

Despite the fact that the Challis Ag+ units were designed to be replaced every 12 weeks the trial was extended to 6 months in order to really test the robustness of the product and efficacy. The units maintained their extremely high level of anti-bacterial control throughout the extended period with no degradation in their effectiveness what so ever.

At first I was sceptical which is why I decided to undertake my own trial. The results speak for themselves. This gives me confidence that I am protecting patients, staff and the service provider as well as exceeding L8 & HTM04 requirements.

