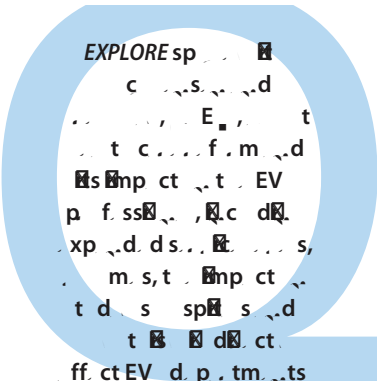




AHE VOICES

Leaders Share Their Expertise Related to Health Care Reform and its Impact on the EVS Professional



Q: Do you expect cleaning services to change as a result of health care reform? If so, how do you expect EVS to change (EV)?



Rock Jensen (RJ): Most hospital and health care organizations I look at are anticipating an increase in patient volumes as a result of health care reform. With nearly 34 million

uninsured individuals entering the health care marketplace, hospitals are developing unique strategies to get new patients into and through the hospital system. Many are developing aggressive inpatient units that direct less acute patients into separate care level structures, with a goal of limited hospital admissions.

While hospital inpatient volumes and admissions will most likely decline under health care reform, outpatient services are anticipating significant increases in their activity.

EVS departments are being driven to adapt to these volume and service/acuity changes. Typically, the inpatient areas receive focused and frequent cleaning services each day. EVS departments often provide discharge teams the ability to

the majority of cleaning focus at the end of the day, on a one-time-a-day frequency.

As patient volumes shift and high-outpatient activity occurs, EVS departments will have to make adjustments as well. Reallocating resources to address these changes will be a key to successful outcomes. Developing highly mobile response teams to manage high turnover locations will be a new focus. Instead of the assigning an EVS technician to a set number of rooms and common areas for which to be accountable, the new module will equip individuals and teams who are capable of effective and efficient communication to remain on

top of the ever-adjusting loads. These roles will have to be capable of flexing to the level of cleaning requirements, which can vary with patient acuity and need.

Consequently, a good understanding of the hospital infection prevention processes will be essential in helping them make appropriate adjustments to the level of cleaning required for the variable case cleanings presented in the ever-changing outpatient setting.



Greg May, CHESP (GM): Health care leaders are moving to leverage cost-efficient outpatient settings, however, I believe they expect both admissions and inpatient days to increase. The reasons for this re-date health care reform as we know it today. That is, baby boomer's continue to age. And this lagging out of health care consumers' health acuity will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

EVS departments will be tasked with cleaning a variety of spaces with various levels of regulatory oversight. Many spaces will likely stay on the acute care license, equipping the same level of regulatory oversight and the effort to maintain a level of cleaning provided within these settings. In some cases, cleaning will be contracted, which will place EVS management in the role of cleaning regulatory oversight.

As an example, with contracted cleaning off-site services associated with our acute-care license, I equate they follow our cleaning procedures and further equip their staff to complete an orientation from my manager's, as well as demonstrate the competencies involved. This has been especially important for areas that have procedure rooms, ambulatory surgery rooms, interventional radiology and infusion spaces. We also address the many sterile teams (e.g., bio-hazardous, sterile pharmaceutical, sterile, confidential, sterile, etc.). Many contracted

have not been equipped to follow procedural cleaning processes and, as a result, can create significant issues for the healthcare environment if not addressed.

Q: If fact, the expected decrease in...
...s...s, ...t...m...
...t...p...c...? Is...Es...
m...s...p...t...s...t...
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s...s?



RJ: Out-patient services are the anticipated increases are expected by most of the hospitals I work with. AHE is the premier organization for EVS professionals to ensure they stay ahead of the curve in regards to upcoming changes in healthcare reform. Monthly AHE training webinars are focused on developing and sustaining skills within the industry that allow them to successfully navigate changes within their specific organization and maintain growth within their profession.

