

Efficient, effective and economical

Easy to use Oxypharm hydrogen peroxide system delivers fast turnaround room decontamination for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Time is of the essence. After using other systems for room decontamination, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is now using Oxypharm's fast-acting HPV dry gas machines.

Ellen Ashton, the trust's hotel services manager, told *Hospital Bulletin*: "We had been using larger hydrogen peroxide machines previously. Operationally they were fine but they were quite big and heavy, and the turnaround time was six hours or more.

"We moved to an ozone-based system which was equally as effective as fogging and reduced the turnaround to four hours for a four-bedded bay, so it was still quite long, but the company went into liquidation. We reverted to the earlier, larger hydrogen peroxide machines and purchased a further two."

Ellen explained: "Our main concern was still the timeframe that it was taking to decontaminate a room. Then, around this time, we learned of the Oxypharm machines available from Innotec Hygiene Solutions.

"Paul Hateley, our head of infection prevention and control, had worked at Birmingham where they use Oxypharm.

"We arranged for Neill Simmons, of Oxypharm's UK distributor Innotec Hygiene Solutions, to demonstrate the system. We undertook trials over about six weeks at the same time as we were looking at UV."



Easy to manoeuvre: the trust has mounted the light weight Oxypharm machines on trolleys that hold all the necessary supplies



Teamwork: Ellen Ashton, hotel services manager, with Mike Harrison, infection prevention and control nurse

Ellen said: "With UV we all felt that it was too early in its design stages and it was cost prohibitive. We didn't feel UV was something we wanted to embrace.

"We were all pleased with the Oxypharm's performance during the trial. The teams found it was easy to operate, knowing what the dosage was, and easy to move around. It fitted into all our procedures and has been very reliable and easy to use."

Ellen said: "Most importantly Oxypharm has a faster turnaround, so we can do areas we couldn't do previously.

"We've ten machines in total - seven at Royal Preston Hospital, which has 900 beds, and three at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital, which has 200 beds. Neill Simmons delivered training to all the teams but the system's very easy to use.

"While the machines are light in weight we were concerned about staff having to move the machines around. We purchased trolleys - the style normally used by domestic service teams - to mount the Oxypharms on. They have lockable drawers for all the supplies and they carry the ladders which teams use when covering smoke alarms and air condition vents."

A member of the 'fogging team', Alan Banks said: "With the Oxypharm a four-bedded bay takes one and a half hours, with the machine running for just one minute. Sluices need just 30 seconds of machine running time.

"The machines are light in weight, easy to move around the hospital on the trolleys. The machine's wheeled into the room

on the trolley and positioned in a corner so that it's facing the centre of the room," said Alan. "We make sure the smoke alarms and air conditioning vents are covered, then we just set the machine's dial according to a book listing all the room volumes. The doors are

taped-up and warning signs fixed. The machine starts automatically.

"We've used the Oxypharms hundreds of times without any problems. Patients sometimes ask us what we're doing and when we tell them they're re-assured."

Infection prevention and control nurse Mike Harrison explained: "The benefits are the

with similar size trusts."

Ellen explained: "As we're able to turn rooms around more quickly it eases bed pressures in the trust.

"Oxypharm is efficient and effective. Each machine is a third of the price of the larger hydrogen peroxide equipment we were using previously, so it makes economic sense too. The overall running costs with the chemicals show savings too.

"The system also fitted in with the Health & Safety policies and procedures that we had already created for the management of hydrogen peroxide."

Ellen added: "We are looking forward to working in partnership with Innotec in anything they do to develop the service."

Indeed further developments are already in hand for the heavily validated Oxypharm. "We've just introduced a remote control system, enabling the machines to be activated from outside the room," explained Neill Simmons, director of



Easy to use: Alan Banks sets the dial to decontaminate a sluice room - that's all that's required

Innotec Hygiene Solutions. "This enables the user to activate the machine from outside the room being treated, which does not need to be in view as the radio signal works through walls and doors. The remote control can also be used to terminate the diffusion if required.

"As with the current system, the remote control machine calculates how long the diffusion should be, depending on room volume, and terminates the diffusion after an

appropriate length of time. The system can be retro-fitted onto the earlier machines should customers require it."

For further information, call Neill Simmons at Innotec Hygiene Solutions on 07791 797955, e-mail neill@innotechygenesolutions.com or visit www.innotechygenesolutions.com

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