

Technical Bulletin
Scientific and Technical Support Group
Sklar Instruments
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**Prevention of Environmental Cross-Contamination
with Clostridium difficile bacteria
using Sklar Disinfectant**

Clostridium difficile is an anaerobic, spore-forming, Gram-positive rod. Concerns relating to outbreaks and colonization with *C. difficile* have been reported from hospitals and long-term facilities for the past decade. Endemic infections due to *C. difficile* have identified that patient-to-patient transmission of this microorganism can occur via hands, contaminated patient-care equipment or environmental surfaces.

Recommendations for Control and Prevention:

- Facilities with endemic *C. difficile* should focus control efforts on intensive care units and other areas where the transmission rate is highest. Such units may serve as a reservoir of *C. difficile* enabling spread to other units when patients are transferred.
- In facilities with ongoing *C. difficile* transmission, assess the adequacy and frequency of cleaning procedures for disinfecting environmental surfaces such as bedrails, carts, doorknobs, faucet handles, toilet seats, computer terminals, knobs of electronic equipment such patient-care monitors and bedside commodes and ensure procedure compliance. Surviving *C. difficile* exposed to the air on surfaces for periods exceeding 4- 6 hours will form spores rendering them impossible to kill on environmental surfaces. Frequent cleaning and disinfection will help to reduce transmission by killing *C. difficile* bacteria prior to its ability to form spores. CDC guidelines recommend the use of an EPA registered disinfectant for cleaning against *C. difficile*.
- If possible, dedicate the use of medical equipment and devices to a single patient or cohort. If such items are used between patients, clean and disinfect them thoroughly and frequently, at least every four (4) hours, using Sklar Disinfectant solution as per its labeled instructions.

Extensive environmental contamination with *C. difficile* has been noted in some studies. A recent laboratory study verified the ability of Sklar Disinfectant (EPA Registration Number 70144-1-31118) to kill *C. difficile* within 3 minutes at 20°C/69°F. by methods of the AOAC Germicidal Spray Test.

References:

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