ENVIRONMENTAL ROUNDEL ASSESSMENTS

“What to Look For”

AND

Q & A
OBJECTIVES

• Better understand best practices regarding environmental rounding
• Understand what types of common themes are found throughout facilities and know what to look for when rounding
• Assess the facility for safe and sanitary conditions
• Assess the facility and staff for infection prevention practices
WHAT DOES THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

• A facility’s environment plays a vital role in preventing and controlling infection

• Environmental rounds = valuable information regarding the building, furnishings and staff practices!
THE MISSION

• Accrediting organizations, like The Joint Commission for example, require hospitals to conduct environmental rounds twice a year in patient care areas and once per year in non-patient care areas.

• While health departments are not generally subject to these requirements, every health department’s mission is to provide a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment for patients and staff.
WHERE SHOULD I START?

- Entry Point
- Audit Tool
- Second Pair of Eyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>Finding or Comment</th>
<th>CAC</th>
<th>FU</th>
<th>NA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam &amp; Treatment rooms</td>
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<td>Floors &amp; walls clean</td>
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<td>Walls are free of breaks and penetrations</td>
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<td>Bathroom clean</td>
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<td>Hand Hygiene Sink present with soap and paper towels</td>
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<td>Alcohol based hand rubs accessible</td>
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<td>Furniture clean, no tears or taped surfaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counters free of clutter</td>
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<td>Gloves, PPE, available as per policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubicle curtains visible clean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy for cleaning cubicle curtains</td>
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<tr>
<td>No food or drink present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical supplies/devices stored appropriately to reduce potential contamination (dust, healthcare personnel hands etc..)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

C = Compliant; NC = Not compliant; CAC = Corrective action completed; FU = Follow-up required; NA = Not applicable
COMMON THEMES
COMMON THEMES
CEILING TILES
COMMON THEMES
WATER INTRUSION
COMMON THEMES
STORAGE UNDER SINKS
COMMON THEMES
PATIENT SUPPLIES & SINKS
COMMON THEMES
EXPIRED ITEMS
COMMON THEMES
FURNITURE/EXAM ROOMS
COMMON THEMES
SHARPS CONTAINERS
COMMON THEMES

FOOD & DRINK
COMMON THEMES
RESPIRATORY STATIONS & SIGNAGE
COMMON THEMES
WAITING ROOM SPACING
COMMON THEMES
HALLWAY CLUTTER
COMMON THEMES
CORRUGATED BOXES
COMMON THEMES
CORRUGATED BOXES CONT’D
COMMON THEMES
STORAGE

OR
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ROUNding AREAS OF CONCERN
ASSISTED BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING

• Assisted blood glucose monitoring, while considered to be a benign procedure, has been identified as a major cause and been the mode of transmission for many hepatitis B outbreaks.

• Outbreaks have been linked to the infection control breaches shown here, including:
  • Sharing of blood glucose meters without disinfection and cleaning between uses, this is the most common breach.
  • Use of fingerstick devices or insulin pens for multiple people, and
  • Failure to perform hand hygiene or change gloves between procedures.
Spaulding’s classification of medical devices

Critical item
*Contact with sterile body site and must be sterilized*

Semi-critical item
*Contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin and must be high-level disinfected*

Non-critical item
*Contact with intact skin and requires low-level disinfection*
AIRBORNE INFECTION ISOLATION ROOM (AIIR)

• TB risk assessment, annually
• AIIR requirements
  • Negative pressure
  • Door shut
• Pressure Monitored
  • Tissue Test
  • Visual monitors
• Measles
• Chickenpox
• TB
PHARMACY-MEDICATION AREA

- Cleanliness of area and no clutter
- Single dose
  - One time-one patient
- Multi-dose vials dated
  - Expiration date 28 days after opening OR
  - Contamination is suspected or confirmed
- No mingling of activities
- Medication refrigerators
MEDICATION AND VACCINE STORAGE

• Temperatures maintained at appropriate range in refrigerators and freezers
• Back up generator if power goes out
• Documentation system (electronic)
• Monitoring and alarm system 24/7
LAB

- PPE storage
- Sharps container
- HH sink
- Soiled sink
- Supplies not within splash zone
- Specimen refrigerator
- Expiration dates on supplies
- Furniture good condition
SUMMARY OF COMMON THEMES

- Furniture (i.e., exam tables, chairs, stools) free of tears
- Accessibility of ABHRs
- Counters clutter free
- Sinks
- Privacy curtains
- Sharps containers
- Expiration of supplies/medications
- Spaced seating
- Blood glucose monitoring
- Medication/vaccine area/storage
- AIIRs
SUMMARY OF COMMON THEMES

- Storage
- Hallways and corridors clean and free of clutter
- Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette Stations
- Ceiling tiles
- Corrugated boxes
- Water intrusion
- Food/drink
- Spaulding’s classification
CONCLUSIONS

• An organization’s physical environment is integral to its ability to prevent and control infection.

• Environmental rounding provides valuable information about your building, its furnishings and equipment as well as staff practices.

• Tips for successful rounding
  • Use a standardized checklist
  • Establishing a routine schedule for conducting rounds
  • Include staff members in the process
  • Aggregate findings and feed back to staff and leadership
RESOURCES & LINKS

• Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities
  https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines-P.pdf

• Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Outpatient Settings
  https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/icar/outpatient.pdf

• Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings; Minimum Expectations for Safe Care

• Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology
  https://spice.unc.edu/

• SPICE’s Tool for Success: Monitoring and Observation Tools; Environmental Rounds Tool
  https://spice.unc.edu/tools-for-success/
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS