Cleaning – from basics to outcomes.

- GAURI BHATIA , CONSULTANT & TRAINER INFECTION PREVENTION PRACTICES .

Definition

- Complete removal of visible and invisible soil along with minimising bioburden
- Preventing damage
- Helping in maintenance of working
- Operator safety
- ► Facilitating turn around time management
- Making further treatment more effective
- Finally influencing outcomes with regards to patient safety, faster recovery, prevention of HAIs.

System approach

- Process cycle from one use to the next
- ► SOPs
- Equipments
- Aids / accessories
- Chemicals
- Safety measures
- Training
- Validation, Maintenance, Documentation, Record Keeping

Water quality

- Specifications from equipment manufacturers
- Facility supply / dedicated arrangements
- Periodic checks
- Consistency
- ► Treatment plant maintenance
- Wastage prevention / recycling

How to begin

- Design proximity to user ,negative pressure , comfortable temperature
- Enough space for trolley movement, storage of material, Disposal receptions including waste segregation, sharp disposal.
- Sinks ,Tap design , water jets with required nozzle attachments, hand shower , Compressed air jet with FRL assembly .
- Brushes
- PPE
- Strainers
- Soaking Tank

Where to begin

- Immediately after use ,at user level ,with pre rinsing / soaking
- Wiping to remove gross soil happens even during the procedure
- Flushing immediately
- Attachments can be flushed while connected to system
- ► Earliest transport in closed trolley to Decontamination area of user
- Segregation of disposable , loaner , personal ,delicate and hospital equipment
- Handing over to CSSD with entry / scanners can be used

Cleaning per se

- Manual
- Specialised
- Automated

Followed by -

Rinsing, wherever needed

Drying

Why is it so important

Sterilization is a probability that is function of initial bio-burden

This means lesser the burden better are the chances of freeing the material from living microbes ,reverse is also *True*

Sterilization breaks the chain of Infection.

Patient and operator / employee safety are our priorities

Contaminants protect / shield the microbes thus reducing the effectiveness of subsequent processes like disinfection or Sterilization .

Residues damage the surfaces ,adhere harder making it a challenge to tackle at later stage

Most important and crucial aim is not to disturb professional (surgeon /clinician) in carrying out his duty for the benefit of patient

How to select method and agent

- Surface cleaning Manual eg. Utencils , trays
- Jointed operating instruments like Artery forceps, needle holders, Tissue forceps – Ultrasonic cleaner
- Automation ,standardisation , consistency , with disinfection using steam
 Washer Disinfector

Specialised instruments – IFU to be followed meticulously

Apart from cleaning instructions –

- Hand hygiene
- Importance of PPE Donning and Doffing instructions
- Hepatitis B vaccination to operator, Training about Needle stick / Sharp injury prevention.
- Post exposure prophylaxis
- First aid post splashes accidental exposure
- MSDS
- Biomedical waste management

How to assess

- Visual inspection
- Equipment validation (IQ,OQ,PQ)
- Process / program standardization
- Protein swab test
- Test soils
- Random sampling by Microbiology

Care of delicate specialised instruments

- Take help from supplier
- Conduct training for use ,handling and processing
- Make as SOP following IFU
- Include pictures ,video for better understanding
- Initially seek help for hand holding and practical hands on sessions
- Validate in house and document
- Make a list of trained personnel in both the departments (user and CSSD)
- ► Form a team to get experience and then train others if needed sothat in their absence work is not hampered.

So with reference to HAIs atleast, can we say ...

