

## Routine Use of 1:10 Bleach (DISPATCH®) Bundled with an Educational Program Reduces Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE) Rates by 100%

(B.D. Eckstein et al. *BMC Infectious Diseases* 2007, 7:61)

**Scope:** The **Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center** evaluated six high-touch surfaces in rooms with vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE) — before cleaning, after typical cleaning, and after 1:10 bleach disinfection by the research staff — to determine if a bundled intervention, including 1:10 bleach for surface disinfection, could reduce contamination of these surfaces.

**Results:** Using 1:10 bleach (DISPATCH®) solution for routine disinfection of high-touch surfaces as part a bundled infection-prevention program reduced positive VRE detection rates by 100%. Program was sustained for four months and reduced contamination results were maintained.

**Summary of Findings:** As a result of study, 1:10 bleach disinfection for high-touch surfaces was adopted for discharge cleaning of all patient rooms at facility.

- ✓ EVS reported no surface damage or complaints due to use of bleach, despite initial concerns.
- ✓ Education intervention for housekeeping team deemed key to results.

**Study Details:** Peer-reviewed, statistically significant data in a well-controlled six-week before-and-after study; Results published in *BMC Infectious Diseases* in 2007. Study occurred over six weeks initially (and continued for 10 additional weeks) at a 368-bed acute care medical facility. Study limitations are well-defined and discussed.

### Levels of VRE Pre- and Post-Intervention Depicted:

