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**INSIDE THE CURRENT ISSUE**

**What Works**

**Cleaner option for high-touch TV remotes helps reduce contamination rates**

By every measure, Sarasota Memorial Health Care System is recognized as a premier healthcare leader – not only in the state of Florida but nationwide - ranking in the top 5% of hospitals based on its unusually low mortality and complication rates. Additionally, for six straight years, it has been recognized as one of "America's Best Hospitals" in *U.S. News and World Report*. The 806 bed regional medical center is among the state's largest acute care public health systems and employs more than 4,000 staff members including some of the country's finest nurses. The American Nurses' Credentialing Center, the premier authority on nursing, has awarded the hospital "Magnet Nursing Services Recognition" for having the resources to attract and retain the nation's best nurses and provide the highest quality of care to patients.

Never one to rest on its laurels, Sarasota Memorial leadership team is continually looking to take pro-active measures to ensure the highest level of safety and wellbeing for every patient entrusted to their care. In today's healthcare setting, a major concern is the patient's risk of a nosocomial or "healthcare acquired" infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the United States, as many as one in 10 patients or 2 million patients nationwide may acquire such an infection and about 90,000 people die as a result of such an infection. While Sarasota Memorial's incidence rate for nosocomial infections was already one of the lowest in the region, hospital leaders wanted to explore innovative infection control solutions that would continue to improve the facility's cleansing/disinfection compliance rate.

Greg Rosenberger, Sarasota Memorial's Hospitality Services operations manager, explained that the hospital regularly conducts adenosine triphosphate (ATP) testing on six "high-touch" items including the nurse call remote, the telephone receiver, the television remote, the toilet seat, the bathroom faucet and the bed rail. Each are swab tested 175-200 times every quarter with the hospital's hygiene monitoring system. He noted that while all six items have the potential for contamination, the nurse call remote, the telephone receiver and a standard television remote are particularly challenging due to their many nooks and crannies.

Eight months ago the hospital's supply chain department told Rosenberger about a new type of television remote called the "Clean Remote" designed with the keypad sealed under a plastic membrane, which protects against bacteria and fluids from penetrating the surface. In addition, its flat non-porous surface makes it easy to clean and disinfect.

**The Facility**

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System  
Sarasota, FL

**The Challenge**

Find pro-active, innovative solutions to continue to improve the facility's cleansing/disinfection compliance rate

**The Solution**

The Clean Remote

**The Vendor**

[Noso Control LLC/Clean Remote](#)

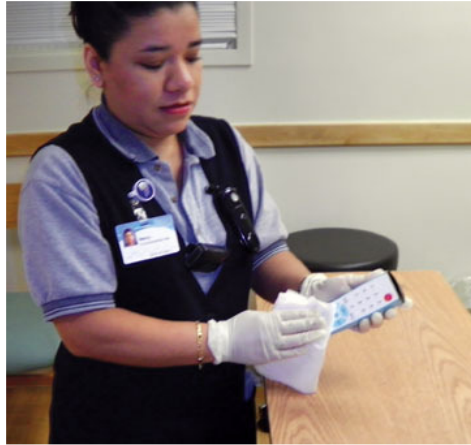


"Our hospital's mission is to provide healthcare services which excel in caring, quality, and innovation. We have a reputation for being

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*Nancy Rodriguez, Environmental Services team member, Sarasota Memorial, disinfects a Clean Remote*

'ahead of the curve' in most areas of patient care, so we decided to see if this product could further improve our cleaning/disinfection compliance rate," stated Rosenberger. "Our results were immediate. We found a significant reduction in contamination or residuals left after cleaning. While we continue to randomly swab-test Clean Remotes, it remains one of the cleanest high-touch surfaces. Clean Remote has more than lived up to its marketing claims. We wish that we could design our patient phones and nurse call buttons to have a surface the same as Clean Remote."

According to Daniel Ruback, vice president of sales and marketing for Clean Remote, several studies have shown the standard TV remote control is the most contaminated surface in a patient's room. Ruback stated, "The Clean Remote has been scientifically tested to carry 99% less bacteria than all other remotes tested. For the low cost of a television remote, a healthcare facility can potentially save someone's life as well as the average \$15,000 cost per incident for a hospital acquired infection. This makes it a simple and cost-effective solution to significantly reducing or eliminating hospital acquired infections."

Rosenberger pointed out there are additional savings associated with the Clean Remote including a higher level of efficiency by the housekeeping staff who love the new remote as well as a reduction in theft since the remotes do not resemble standard home remote controls.

Medical staff at Sarasota Memorial, including Dr. Manuel Gordillo, an infection control physician are pleased that the Clean Remote is helping the hospital overcome the transmission of nosocomial pathogens and move closer to its goal of clean and uncontaminated high-touch surfaces near its patients. According to Dr. Gordillo, this falls in line with recommendations by the CDC to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces on a more frequent basis than minimal touch surfaces. [HPN](#)

