

Reply to G.J. Hughes *et al*: *Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England assessed using a breakpoint model*

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We read with great interest the recent article by G.J. Hughes *et al*: "*Impact of cleaning and other interventions on the reduction of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infections in two hospitals in England using a breakpoint model*". We are in full agreement with the authors who state that reinforced environmental cleaning and disinfection, and in particular hydrogen peroxide automated surface decontamination, contribute to improved surface safety and therefore a reduction of HAI rates^{1,2,3}

However, we have reason to believe the H₂O₂ surface decontamination system identified as being used by one of the participating hospitals (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) is unlikely to have been the Deprox system (Hygiene Solutions), as stated in Table 1 of the article. We have based this on the following:

- (1) We are able to confirm that another system was in use at the hospital during the period in question: the Sterinis/Sterusil system and its subsequent solution, now commercialized as GLOSAIR™ 400 System by Advanced Sterilization Products (a Johnson & Johnson company). Hygienics Biosecurity Limited (previous distributor of the

1. M.E. Falagas, P.C. Thomaidis, I.K. Kotsantis, K. Sgouros, G. Samonis, D.E. Karageorgopoulos. Airborne hydrogen peroxide for disinfection of the hospital environment and infection control: a systematic review. *Journal of Hospital Infection* July 2011, Vol. 78, Issue 3, 171-177

2. F. Barbut, PharmD, PhD; D. Menuet, BSc; M. Verachten, BSc; E. Girou, PharmD. Comparison of the Efficacy of a Hydrogen Peroxide Dry-Mist Disinfection System and Sodium Hypochlorite Solution for Eradication of Clostridium difficile Spores. *Infection control and hospital epidemiology* June 2009, vol. 30, no. 6

3. S. Shapey, K. Machin, K. Levi, T.C. Boswell. Activity of a dry mist hydrogen peroxide system against environmental Clostridium difficile contamination in elderly care wards. *Journal of Hospital Infection* October 2008, Vol. 70, Issue 2, 136-141

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4 Sterinis/Sterusil system) provided decontamination services at the time the data was
5 collected and as such has evidence to confirm the hospital was in receipt of these
6 services during this period. We presume this can be further corroborated by the journal
7 contacting: (i) the trust to access its accounting records for 2008/9, and (ii) Hygiene
8 Solutions to confirm it was not providing services to the trust at the time.
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- 14 (2) As we understand it, the two companies mentioned on the provider's website (bottom of
15 the page: <http://www.hygiene-solutions.co.uk/s22/Contact.htm>) were both established in
16 2010. Please see below the two companies and their respective company numbers, as
17 listed with Companies House (<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>):
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22 Specialist Hygiene Solutions Limited: company number 07183575
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24 Hygiene Solutions Limited: company number 07479344
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27 We assume both authors and publisher of the article will be keen to ensure the accuracy of the
28 data used. Therefore we suggest this matter be further investigated and, if the details in the
29 article are found to be inaccurate, the matter be resolved by the publication of a correction. If
30 you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact us, we would be happy to
31 assist.
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