



Germ-Zapping Robots Fight C. diff and MRSA at Mercy Health Saint Mary's

"The automated Xenex [room disinfection system](#) has been credited for helping other health care facilities in the U.S. decrease their MRSA and C. diff infection rates by more than 50 percent, according to [studies](#)," said Kent Miller, Director of Environmental Services. "The investment in these robots is another step Mercy Health is taking to reduce the number of serious and even life-threatening infections."

The pair of [Xenex robots](#) at Mercy Health uses patented pulsed xenon ultraviolet (UV-C) light 25,000 times more powerful than sunlight to destroy harmful bacteria, viruses, fungi and even bacterial spores.

"The light is deadly to bacteria and viruses. The UV-C light breaks up their DNA and causes them to explode," said Liberty Dykehouse, RN, Infection Control Preventionist at Mercy Health Saint Mary's. Because the Xenex robot uses [UV light](#), it is able to reach virtually every surface in the room, and it does not leave a chemical residue. As the Xenex robot contains no mercury or hydrogen peroxide, it stands as the only "green" technology used in automated room disinfection. Since its implementation in 2010, the Xenex device is used in more than 250 hospitals and VA facilities around the nation.

Specially trained staff at Mercy Health use these machines in operating rooms, intensive care and isolation rooms after discharge and in intervention radiology and C-section suites. The Xenex system is easily portable, allowing it to disinfect virtually any location within the hospital, including offices, utility rooms and equipment storage rooms. The Xenex robots will disinfect up to 30 discharged patient rooms and all 27 Operating Rooms and procedural areas each day.

To disinfect a room after standard discharge cleaning procedures are complete, Mercy Health Environmental Services staff wheels the Xenex robot into the room, positions it beside the bed, begins the automated sequence, and then exits the room.

"It is a great feeling to know that patients entering my rooms have the most sanitary environment I could give them," said Ashley Maas, an Environmental Services staff member trained in using the robots. The entire cleaning process takes about 15 minutes per room.

"Mercy Health Saint Mary's is committed to eliminating healthcare-associated infections and our Xenex robots are taking our ability to disinfect surfaces to a level not previously possible," said Dykehouse. "Environmental cleaning, antimicrobial stewardship and hand hygiene are the three pillars of Infection Prevention. As an entire hospital, we have been actively engaged in optimizing all of these aspects, but the Xenex systems are really the last piece of our puzzle."

To learn more about the Xenex robots, visit www.xenex.com.

Interviews with robot operators and infection control preventionists and live demonstrations at Mercy Health St. Mary's available upon request.

About Mercy Health

Dedicated to providing highly personalized care, excellent access to primary care providers and specialists and a more informed patient experience, Mercy Health serves West Michigan and the lakeshore with five hospital campuses, 60 physician offices and hospice, home health and long-term care service offerings. The system includes leading teaching hospitals, and renowned clinical leadership in oncology, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology as well as the multi-specialty physician network, Mercy Health Physician Partners. Mercy Health Saint Mary's is a Magnet®-recognized and Niche Exemplar status hospital. Mercy Health is a regional health ministry of Livonia, Mich.-based CHE Trinity Health, one of the nation's largest multi-institutional Catholic health care systems. Visit us at www.MercyHealth.com and www.MercyHealthPhysicianPartners.com and find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WeAreMercyHealth.

About Xenex Disinfection Services

Xenex's patented pulsed xenon UV room disinfection system is a pesticidal device used for the advanced cleaning of healthcare facilities. Due to its speed and ease of use, the Xenex system has proven to integrate smoothly into hospital cleaning operations. The Xenex mission is to eliminate bacteria, viruses and spores in the patient environment that can cause hospital-acquired infections and to become the new standard method for disinfection in healthcare facilities worldwide.

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