A smile for better hand hygiene

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OPHARDT Hygiene’s eye-catching hand disinfection dispensers support infection prevention in high-risk areas
Dear Readers,

Following proper hand hygiene procedures is one of the most effective measures against the spread of infections. Preventing the spread of harmful bacteria is the essence of our company mission, “Breaking the chain of infection.” Despite the unique requirements of our global markets, our innovative products always manage to reflect our desire to improve quality of life by maximizing the availability of hand hygiene solutions.

In our third edition of “Hygiene World,” we highlight some of the current requirements for hand hygiene dispensers used to clean and disinfect hands in medical environments. We take a look at Europe’s leading hygiene organization – The Commission for Hospital Hygiene at the Robert-Koch-Institute (KRINKO) which sets concrete hygiene requirements for hospitals.

We have always offered sustainable, easy-to-use, long-lasting dispensing systems with stainless steel pumps, capable of withstanding the extreme temperatures of reprocessing. With our new DHP disposable pumps, we move toward the clear market trend of offering medical institutions an innovative alternative to the costly cleaning and reprocessing of pumps and dispensers. Our DHP pumps are compatible with the ingo-man® plus and RX dispenser systems, guaranteeing consumers a wide and manufacturer-independent selection of hand sanitizer and soaps – a requirement set by the KRINKO.

One of our key targets when developing hand care dispensers is to motivate and promote good hand hygiene. Bright, hi-vis colours, touchless technology for hygienic dispensing, and flexible mounting systems to maximize dispenser proximity, are part of our comprehensive approach to encourage hospital staff, visitors and patients alike, to participate in thorough hand hygiene procedures.

We don’t stop there. In this edition, we highlight how a custom designed PRAESIDIO® was created to strengthen the quality of hand hygiene behaviour on a neo-natal, intensive care ward.

We report on our new “ingo-slide” waste bin, a system that offers unparalleled hygienic performance in an intuitive package. We are also excited to reveal a further award granted to “the untouchable™” by the 2019 German Design Awards.

Happy reading and warm regards from Issum,

Heiner Ophardt, CEO

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Safety first! Hygiene solutions and dispenser systems from OPHARDT hygiene exceed the most stringent hygiene regulations

Creating the perfect dispenser for medical environments

Recommendations published by Europe’s leading hygiene organization – the Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Protection (KRINKO) at the Robert Koch Institute – create the framework for European hospitals to ensure a high standard of hygiene. In Germany, managers of medical institutions must adhere to § 23 of the Infection Prevention Law, which specifically requires them to implement the recommendations made by the Robert Koch Institute.

What does this entail? We provide a brief summary of the “must haves” of a medical dispenser below.

Benefits of open source systems

There are a wide variety of hand sanitizers and soaps on the market, making it difficult for hospitals to differentiate among products. Some suppliers offer discounted closed-cartridge dispensers where only their formulation fits into the dispenser. The KRINKO encourages hospitals to purchase dispensers that allow them to choose between any soap or disinfectant manufacturer using standardized Euro bottles. This gives the hospital the freedom to run multiple hand-care products, ensures supply security, and can also result in significant savings. Should problems arise with one manufacturer, the hospital can easily switch to any product from another manufacturer. The KRINKO strongly advocates for open source dispenser systems.

“It must be guaranteed […], that refill units can be selected from different manufacturers”

— KRINKO quote

In 1973, OPHARDT hygiene introduced the standard Euro-bottle format, which has remained a core feature of the ingo-man® dispenser series, as well as the worldwide hygiene market.

A clear advantage for disposable systems

To minimize the risk of contaminated pumps, the KRINKO recommends the use of disposable pumps in combination with disposable bottles. For hospitals, switching to disposable pumps can save resources by eliminating the need for expensive cleaning and reprocessing of pumps.

“It is preferable to use dispensers with soap bottles and pumps that are disposable and replaced after use”

— KRINKO quote

Wherever dispensers are in use, disposable pumps have a clear advantage. OPHARDT hygiene provides an innovative solution that guarantees the implementation of the KRINKO recommendations: the DHP recyclable pump. The “wings” located on the side of the pump’s stem guarantees that, when an empty bottle is removed from the dispenser, the pump stem is released from the pump engine, rendering it unusable. For hygienists, this allows for vastly simplified infection risk management and conformation to the latest hygiene regulations.

PROFESSIONAL OPINION

The Euro-bottle standard allows for the greatest possible flexibility when selecting a hand sanitizer, and allows for the use of several different hand care products at the same time. A system that is not neutral or open could never be entered into consideration.

“Dr. Med. Béatrice Grabein
Leading Doctor, German Clinical Microbiology and Hospital Hygiene, University Clinic, Munich

“
OPHARDT hygiene partners with renowned agency to offer hand hygiene course

★ TÜV-approved certification for dispenser systems

OPHARDT hygiene shares expert knowledge

What requirements do hand care dispensers need to fulfil in hospitals? How often do dispenser systems need to be checked and maintained? Answers to these and other questions concerning hand-care dispensers are now covered in a new TÜV-certified seminar.

Near the end of 2018, OPHARDT hygiene will begin offering courses to train workers within the hand hygiene sector on dispenser systems. The course, recognized by TÜV-Rheinland, is aimed at employees from marketing, sales and product management departments within the hygiene sector, as well as those responsible for hygiene in medical and public facilities. The TÜV-Certificate – Specialist for Hygiene Dispensers – is valid indefinitely and authorizes the holder to provide information and advice on all questions surrounding hygienic dispenser systems.

Training centre offers unique learning environment

The two-day course will be held at OPHARDT hygiene’s Compliance Campus – Centre for Hand Hygiene – in Issum, Germany. Following an introduction on the history and importance of hand hygiene, the course will focus on the characteristics of hand hygiene dispenser systems, taking current regulations and recommendations into consideration. The course concludes at the end of the second day with a written examination overseen by a TÜV-Rheinland examiner. A TÜV Certificate will be issued for all participants who successfully complete the course and exam.

The Compliance Campus is the perfect location for the course: the ‘mini-hospital’ is modelled closely after advanced medical facilities, allowing dispenser systems to be tested and presented in a realistic environment.

Kick-off in December 2018

The first course will take place in German from Dec. 3-4, 2018, with spots quickly filling up. Beginning in 2019, 2-3 courses will be offered annually. Anyone interested in attending the course can contact Markus Marek (Tel.: 02835 18 478) or email training@ophardt.com.
A smile for better hand hygiene in the Christophorus-Hospital Coesfeld

- OPHARDT hygiene’s hand disinfection dispensers support infection prevention in high risk areas through eye-catching design

Thorough hand disinfection is considered the single most important measure in avoiding the transmission of infections. Using eye-catching hand care dispensers in the most ideal locations supports sustained improvements in hand hygiene in medical facilities. The Christophorus Hospital in Coesfeld, North Rhine-Westphalia, has taken this concept to new heights.

**Motivation keeps infections away**

Hospital staff strategically placed the ‘smiling’ dispenser in the entrance hall of the neonatal intensive care unit, hoping its eye-catching design would encourage employees and visitors to disinfect their hands. The touch-free, intuitive operation of this dispenser is inviting to both children and adults alike, further supporting improved hand hygiene in areas where compromised immune systems can make patients more susceptible to infection. On the side of the dispenser is a fill-level monitoring window, allowing hospital staff to ensure hand sanitizer can be topped up whenever supplies become low. Over the next few months the hospital plans to introduce more OPHARDT hygiene dispensers to hygiene sensitive areas to reduce the spread of infections and improve treatment quality.

**PROFESSIONAL OPINION**

Both visitors and employees have received the dispensers well. The eye-catching appearance of the dispensers motivates employees in their daily routine to disinfect their hands and has become a component of patient safety.

“Prof. Dr. Med. Lutz von Müller,
Chief Physician at the Institute for Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Hygiene at the Christophorus Clinics Coesfeld-Dülmen-Nottuln"
Simple, hands-free operation makes the ingo-slide a true innovation

Hygienic waste disposal made easy

Our hands are a primary carrier of bacteria, responsible for an estimated 80% of transmitted infections. Microorganisms that are passed from person to person can have serious consequences, particularly in hospitals or operating theatres, where patients have compromised immune systems.

To avoid the transmission of infections, more and more products feature hands-free technology. OPHARDT hygiene continues to improve hygiene standards with our range of hand care dispensers that are activated via touchless sensors or via long, ergonomic levers that can be operated using an elbow. The ingo-slide represents the newest addition to our hands-free product range.

No chance for contamination
When disposing of waste, the hygienic “no-hands principle” ensures effective protection against the spread of bacteria and germs – which is critical in healthcare settings. This is exactly where OPHARDT hygiene’s new hygienic waste disposal unit makes its mark. The ingo-slide is designed to be mounted either on nurses’ trolleys or on walls, and opened using a patented mechanical opening feature when tipped lightly by foot. When disposal is complete, the ingo-slide can be closed with a gentle touch of the knee.

As well as its intuitive, hygienic operation, the ingo-slide offers additional practical advantages. In comparison to conventional waste disposal units, the unique opening mechanism prevents air from escaping when the bin is closed, minimizing the spread of germs and bacteria through the air.

Quality meets design
Thanks to its compact format, the waste disposal unit easily fits into small rooms and spaces. The availability of a compact 15 litre and spacious 25 litre version ensures hospital staff have the solution they need. The ingo-slide is manufactured using high-quality stainless steel, guaranteeing little wear and tear in high-traffic areas. The units will be available in Q1 2019.

PROFESSIONAL OPINION

The hands-free operation guarantees hygienic disposal of waste in everyday clinical practice and fits perfectly into our clinic’s hygiene concept.

Dr. Med. Olaf Baumhove
Chief Physician at the St. Agnes-Hospital, Bocholt in Germany.
Impact of WiFi-based hand hygiene dispensers on compliance

University Hospital Aachen conducts multi-month study on WiFi-based dispensers

Can WiFi-based hand hygiene dispensers improve hand hygiene behaviour in clinical environments? This question was answered in a research program conducted over a 24-week period at the University Hospital Aachen. The OPHARDT Hygiene Monitoring System® (OHMS) was a focal point of this research program.

Research shows positive effects on the quality of hand hygiene

For the study, OHMS was installed in the cardio-surgical intensive care unit of the University Hospital Aachen. The study was split into four phases, each lasting six weeks.

In the first phase of the study, 19 Wi-Fi capable hand disinfection dispensers were installed. During the second phase of the study, weekly evaluations and feedback were provided to hospital staff on the data collected by the dispensers. During the third phase, 19 additional intelligent dispensers were installed in the ward and data collection and feedback continued. A final post-intervention phase followed, which aimed to examine the lasting effects on hand hygiene.

The research data provided a clear finding: the introduction of WiFi-compatible disinfectant dispensers, in combination with corresponding intervention measures, led to a significant improvement in hand hygiene quality.

The multifunctional faucet system receives prestigious design award

the untouchable™ receives a German Design Award

Innovative, groundbreaking products and projects with added value for users — this is what the globally renowned German Design Award honours.

Among the winners for the 2019 award: the untouchable™. The sensor-controlled, multifunctional faucet system enables touchless dispensing of water, soap and disinfectant from a single compact unit and will receive a “Special Mention” award from the jury of experts. In 2018, there were 5,000 submissions for these awards.

“This faucet incorporates three functions into a compact and timelessly clear form that fits perfectly with many modern decors.”

Jury statement

With its clear design, hygienic dispensing and intuitive operation, the untouchable™ fulfilled essential evaluation criteria in terms of functionality and overall concept. The innovation also impressed the experts in the sustainability category. Compared to conventional, manually operated faucet systems, the untouchable™ helps users reduce water consumption significantly.

The German Design Award is presented annually by the German Design Council, a foundation initiated by the German Bundestag. The award ceremony will take place in February 2019.

Sustainability Report 2017 describes environmental and social initiatives of the OPHARDT group of companies

► OPHARDT hygiene: Healthy planet, healthy people

For more than 50 years, OPHARDT hygiene has supported healthcare workers in washing and disinfecting their hands, ensuring reduced spread of infections and improved health and hygiene standards around the world. Built to last, the ingo-man® dispenser systems have a lasting tradition of sustainable design, with some of the first dispensers ever produced still in service today.

From the first dispenser produced in 1967, OPHARDT hygiene has grown to become the number one dispensing system in German hospitals. With over ten million hand hygiene opportunities provided by OPHARDT, currently in the market, the Group actively contributes every day to improving health and well-being worldwide.

Improving quality of life is interconnected with environmental protection. In the current sustainability report for 2017, OPHARDT presents its initiatives and targets surrounding its three central sustainability goals.

Human and environmental health goes hand-in-hand
While continually working to improve health and well-being of individuals around the world is central to OPHARDT’s cause, OPHARDT is also working to cultivate stronger communities and foster a thriving environment. The success of the individual initiatives of the company are highlighted in the current report:

OPHARDT takes on social responsibility with worldwide charitable projects supporting disadvantaged areas of the world. The family-run company has ambitious plans for the future. By 2019, OPHARDT plans to increase the proportion of energy sourced from renewable resources from 43% to 45%. OPHARDT is working to ensure all packaging materials are reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

OPHARDT has set a target of electronically measuring 100 million hand disinfections with the help of its OPHARDT Hygiene Monitoring System® (OHMS) by 2025. The growth of this tool in the market will help decrease infections in healthcare and improve the health and well-being of individuals around the world.

Together, we can drive positive change toward a more sustainable, shared future.

► Event Outlook 2019

28.01.-31.01.2019
Arab Health | Dubai

24.09.-27.09.2019
CMS | Berlin

11.03.-15.03.2019
ISH | Frankfurt a. M.

05.11.-08.11.2019
A+A | Düsseldorf

13.04.-16.04.2019
ECCMID | Amsterdam

18.11.-21.11.2019
MEDICA | Düsseldorf

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