

To ensure that its patients receive the same standard of care as those at an acute hospital, Skegness and District Community Hospital has built its own mini-decontamination facility. Instruments that previously had to be sent on a 40-mile round trip for sterilization at Boston's Pilgrim Hospital are now quickly and efficiently decontaminated onsite ready for the next clinic.

"We've brought a local community hospital bang up to date - this is the way forward," enthused Janine Rayfield nurse consultant for infectious diseases and infection control at East Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust. "Other aspects of the hospital's procedures had developed, such as the number of clinics, but not decontamination.

"We've now achieved this. It's a lovely result that makes our own staff self-sufficient with a little independent unit."

Janine and Skegness Hospital's senior sister, Jacalyn Shaw, conceived the idea back in 2004 and planned out what they wanted. When funds became available through NHS Estates' central decontamination group in 2005 Janine quickly put together a bid that was submitted to the strategic health authority. Coincidentally Janine and Jackie attended ICNA Trent Region's annual "Darling Bugs of May" event on 10 May 2005 meeting Dekomed's area sales manager, Darren

Kershaw, and learned about the development of the new 'through the wall machine' that would meet their needs. Funds were granted on 12 May 2005.

"Everything

was having to go to Pilgrim Hospital for decontamination," senior sister Jacalyn Shaw told *Inside Hospitals*. "It's mostly instruments involved in ENT, gynaecology, biopsy and dermatology. The wards here undertake minor surgery such as vasectomy and IDU insertion and removal."

Thanks to the new facility, the hospital's clinics could increase. "We could expand to hernia, for example, as we can now process the equipment as we've future-proofed the decontamination unit," explained Janine.

"What we needed were



Dirty work: instruments are loaded into the Deko D4 in the purpose-built mini-CSSD's 'dirty' room

Mini-CSSD brings independence to Skegness Community Hospital

World's first installation of new Deko D4 pass-through washer-disinfector helps create fully compliant decontamination facility

improved turnaround times for instruments used in our outpatient clinics. We'd increased the number of clinics that we need instruments for and it was difficult for Pilgrim Hospital to meet our requirements. Dropped instruments can also be quickly processed onsite and soon be back in use."

The options were going down the disposable route, and buying lots of instruments, or the one-

off outlay to process in-house.

"Not all the required instruments are available as disposables and you can't go single-use if the consultants or clinicians say they are not good enough," says Janine. "As equipment technology improves disposables will catch up with need but not at present.

Other key considerations were the cost of disposal of the hazardous waste, the cost of the 12,000 instruments per year used in minor surgery, storage and reliability of delivery to Skegness during extreme weather conditions.

"It's also wasteful if not all the items in a pack are used," added Janine. "The mini-CSSD we've created means clinicians can use the instruments they want to use and are comfortable with,

which means that patient outcomes are accurately maintained to high standards. Packs can also be set-up tailored to clinician's requirements, saving on wastage.

"With decontamination regulations set to change in 2007 we needed to have a compliant in-house decontamination facility that allowed for future growth. The only option was a validated pass-through washer disinfector. Staff are safe and fully trained in the various procedures."

Outpatients staff are responsible for the decontamination equipment's daily and weekly checks, while estates staff from Pilgrim Hospital handle other regular



Decontamination duo: the mini-CSSD was conceived by Janine Rayfield (left), nurse consultant for infectious diseases and infection control East Lincolnshire PCT, and Jacalyn Shaw, senior sister Skegness and District Community Hospital

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HTM 2030 checks and maintenance though a service level agreement. The ward staff are also fully trained and responsible for the decontamination of their own equipment. A dedicated decontamination person may be appointed as the workload increases.

Housed in what was previously a toilet and separate general utility area, the compact, mini-CSSD has separate 'clean' and 'dirty' rooms. Used instruments are brought to the 'dirty' room from the clinical area in a covered box and loaded into the Deko D4 washer-disinfector for the machine's 30-minute cycle, after which they

are unloaded in the 'clean' room, put into bags and autoclaved in an Eschmann Equipment Little Sister. Purpose-built storage cupboards house the sterilized equipment ready for the next clinic.

In what has been a collaborative process throughout, the PCT's capital projects manager, Nick Overton, and Pilgrim Hospital's estates



Spotless: after the 30-minute cycle equipment is unloaded in the 'clean' room prior to autoclaving

manager, Malcolm Caukwell assisted Janine throughout the project. Pilgrim Hospital's sterile services manager, Graham Stell, helped with setting-up logbooks, schedules, staff training, writing protocols and the ordering of disposables.



Dekomed's service projects manager, Steve Townsend, an authorised Test Person, oversaw delivery and installation and assisted a Test Person from Addenbrookes Hospital in the validation of the washer-disinfector. Designed specifically to suit such requirements as those at Skegness, the new Deko D4 from FRANKE is the product of 18-months development and huge investment.

"We're fully aware that not all customers will want all the options so we build the machine around their specification ensuring PCTs will not waste money on options they don't require," explained Dekomed's area sales manager, Darren Kershaw, while presenting hospital staff with their training certificates.

"Training is key. We deliver training on what the machine is about and more importantly how it works, and the amount of training is unlimited to cover for staff leaving, new staff joining and refresher courses." The extensive training ensures all staff are very reassured and Dekomed's team are only a phone call away.

Hailed as a landmark site by

FRANKE's UK supplier Dekomed, the new Skegness and District Hospital facility sees the first installation in the world for the new machine.

"It will enable PCTs to keep control of their own instruments," adds Dekomed's sales director, Mike Bowden. "If that's the route dentists, podiatrists and PCTs want to take then we have the answer."

Janine adds: "The community is the future. What we have achieved here is excellent, giving patients a seamless transition from the acute hospital to the community with the same high standard of quality care."



Training is key: Dekomed area sales manager Darren Kershaw presents training certificates to (left to right) senior sister Jacalyn Shaw, care support worker Karen Ballet and staff nurse Vicky Wilson

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