CASE STUDY
SilvaClean® reduces microbial infection risk on privacy curtains

Background

Healthcare privacy curtains are fomites, which can become contaminated with pathogens and facilitate transfer to patients, staff, or other surfaces\(^1\). Contamination increases on privacy curtains over time for high-touch points, even reaching 92% contamination after only one week\(^2,3\). A study was conducted to evaluate the addition of SilvaClean residual antimicrobial technology to hospital privacy curtains. This study demonstrates that routinely handled privacy curtains show reduced microbial bioburden loads after four weeks when treated with a residual antimicrobial. Additionally, the curtains maintain a lower baseline microbial load throughout the laundry process, even before use.


Methods

- **Study location:** healthcare and associated commercial laundry facility
- **Study duration:** 4 weeks
- **Sample fabric:** hospital privacy curtains
- **Sample collection points:** 4 (see graphic)
- **Sample frequency:** 1/week

Results

SilvaClean treatment of privacy curtains resulted in reduced contamination of microbial bioburden. Samples from collection point D showed the highest level of contamination, likely due to repeated handling during use. SilvaClean treatment of curtains reduced the microbial load by 86% in CFU/cm\(^2\) post-patient use. Collection points A-C have lower baseline microbial loads as expected of clean samples (pre-use), with additional reductions observed with inclusion of SilvaClean.

Conclusions

The study shows that SilvaClean provides the opportunity to enhance infection control programs. Treated curtains are cleaner when they come out of the dryer, and post-patient use data shows that Silvaclean’s ionic silver remains on privacy curtains throughout the fabric use cycle. The cubical/privacy curtain infection control program with SilvaClean led to first-year cost savings of $57,592, a 40% reduction in program cost. (Customer identity is confidential.)