



RECENT REPORTS

RID Report

According to a recent report by The Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths (RID), "Infections contracted in hospitals are the fourth largest killer in America. Every year in this country, two million patients contract infections in hospitals, and an estimated 103,000 die as a result, as many deaths as from AIDS, breast cancer, and auto accidents combined.

Hospital infections add an estimated \$30 billion to the nation's hospital costs each year. Patients, insurers and taxpayers pay part of that cost, but hospitals have to absorb much of the cost. As a result, infections erode hospital profits. Preventing infections can turn a financially failing hospital profitable."

RID, a nonprofit educational organization that aims to educate hospital staff and patients on how to reduce hospital acquired infections (HAI), is turning to the CDC and public health officials to decrease HAI-related deaths. Their recently released report, "Unnecessary Deaths: The Human and Financial Costs of Hospital Infections", calls upon more rigorous precautions and education in order to combat the rising number of nosocomial deaths.

Betsy McCaughey, PhD, a health policy expert and chairman of RID, explains that "the CDC should be doing more to encourage hospitals to put into place the more rigorous precautions that are proven successful in stopping the transmission of bacteria from patient to patient. Hand hygiene is not enough. Because for the past 40 years, ever since the liberal use of antibiotics replaced attention to hygiene, young HCWs in training have not been taught to avoid contaminating their hands or gloves once they scrub. They aren't being taught about contact precautions.

Many hospital administrators say they can't afford to take these precautions. The truth is, they can't afford not to. Infections erode hospital profits, because rarely are hospitals fully paid for the added weeks or months patients must spend in the hospital when they get an infection."

In response to rising cross-contamination concerns, iKEY has developed the FL-Series of cleanable medical keyboards and mouse that are designed to reduce hospital-acquired infections.

iKEY's medical keyboards and pointing devices are a proven solution to meet the rising standards of infection control, and ensuring all measurements are met to protect your patients and your facility from risks of nosocomial infections.

In October 2004, Ball State University conducted tests on behalf of iKEY to test whether their SlimKey-MD medical keyboard could be disinfected of MRSA, and how it withstands a hospital bleach solution. The final results showed zero growth of MRSA after cleaning, and the keyboard continued to work flawlessly in the hours succeeding.

The FL-Series represents a further improvement of iKEY's outstanding SlimKey-MD line. They are ideal for OR's, patient rooms, carts, ICU's and retractable workstations. For working in low-light environments, the keyboards are even available with the convenience of backlit keys.