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Home > News > Environment & Health > News Detail

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New Report Critical of Cleanliness Standards in Dialysis Centers

December 16, 2010 — A new report by ProPublica, an investigative news organization, and *The Atlantic* indicates that lapses in cleanliness and safety are common in U.S. dialysis centers.

The reports are based on previously unreleased data collected from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The goal of the investigation was to find out why the United States spends more than virtually any other country per dialysis patient, yet has one of the highest mortality rates of dialysis patients worldwide.

Patients go to a dialysis center usually three times per week because their kidneys are no longer able to filter wastes out of the blood.

"Patients commonly receive treatment in settings that are unsanitary [and] regulators have few tools and little authority to enforce quality [cleanliness] standards," says Robin Fields of ProPublica.

The investigators reviewed inspection records of more than 1,500 clinics from New York to California. In nearly half of the centers, "dirty or unsafe conditions, including dried blood on treatment chairs, walls, and floors, were noted," said the report.

"While the report found a number of possible contributing factors impacting the outcome of patients on dialysis, obviously, cross contamination is always a concern in any health care setting," says Michael Schaffer, a senior executive with Tacony Corp.'s commercial floor-care division, which includes such brands as Tornado Industries and CFR Corp.

To help reduce cross-contamination in dialysis as well as all medical

settings, Schaffer recommends "heightened sanitizing and disinfecting procedures of all surfaces."

In addition, enhanced floor care is critical in dialysis and all health care settings, particularly since floors are subjected to spills, leaks, and body fluids that can spread disease. However, this can be difficult because many treatment rooms are small or congested with medical equipment.

"Fortunately, cleaning professionals can tackle this [floor care] challenge by using smaller automatic scrubbers recently introduced" Schaffer says. "These smaller machines can be used in areas often inaccessible by older, larger scrubbers due to their size. This can prevent cross contamination and promote health."

To read the full story in *The Atlantic*, [click here](#).

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Orlando 2010 Show Recap

Home > Trade Shows > ISSA/INTERCLEAN Orlando 2010 > Orlando 2010 Show Recap

ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America 2010, hosted Nov. 9-12 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL, USA, brought together members of the cleaning industry for a week of [education](#), business networking, and special events.



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Whether it was meeting [top suppliers](#), finding new customers, staying ahead of industry trends, or networking with peers, the event provided attendees and the more than 600 exhibitors on the show floor with a wealth of new opportunities.

Additionally, with attractions like the keynote featuring Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tony Blair and the featured session with American football legend Joe Theismann, those in attendance garnered valuable leadership information to utilize in their businesses.

View Highlights From the Show

NEW View photos and videos from this year's event [here](#), plus read comments from your peers about what they found most valuable at the show in Orlando!

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 - o A description of ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
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This policy is effective as of August 25, 2010.



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