

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Survey Reports Patients Worry About Hospital-Acquired Infections *Will This Lead to the Overuse of Disinfectants?***

Peterborough, Canada – September 21, 2010 - Nearly a third of Americans say they have experienced or know someone that has contracted a hospital acquired infection (HAI). These findings appeared in a September 2010 released conducted by [ORC Research](#), a global market research firm.

HAIs--which include C. diff, MRSA, staph infection, and pneumonia, among others--are the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those who acquire these diseases in a hospital are often at an increased risk of death because such patients often have weakened immune systems.

The researchers also noted that effective cleaning plays a key role in preventing the spread and prevention of HAIs. According to the study, “Hospital cleaning teams are not [always] able to disinfect all surfaces in patient rooms, with research indicating [that] more than half of the surfaces may remain untouched.”

The study also revealed:

- 63 percent of Americans are worried about contracting an HAI
- For people over 65, that figure jumps to 73 percent
- Seventy-five percent said they would “feel safer” in a hospital that uses more thorough and effective cleaning and disinfecting systems

“My big concern when reports like this come out is that many hospitals will respond by overusing disinfectants,” says Mike Sawchuk, Vice President of [Enviro-Solutions](#) and [Charlotte Products](#), both located in Peterborough, Canada. “As necessary as they are, it cannot be denied that disinfectants can have a very negative impact on the environment.”

According to Sawchuk, avoiding the overuse of disinfectants is imperative. Luckily, the CDC has developed cleaning procedures that allow hospital administrators and cleaning professionals to achieve this goal while still

protecting patient health. Their method dictates that cleaning teams divide their facility into critical, semicritical, and noncritical areas. The use of disinfectants is necessary only in the critical and some parts of the semicritical areas.

“Disinfectants are not necessary in the noncritical areas, so avoiding their use in those areas reduces the impact [of cleaning] on building occupants and the environment,” adds Sawchuk. “However, what is most important in all areas of a medical facility is that there be proper hand washing and an effective cleaning system implemented including products, procedures, cleaning frequencies, to protect everyone’s health.”