Germ-Fighting Robots Enhance Infection Control; Trinity Health Reports 47% Reduction in HAIs after Adding Pulsed Xenon UV Disinfection to Cleaning Protocols

(MINOT, ND)—June 4, 2018 — A germ-fighting robot that uses pulsed xenon ultraviolet (UV) light to sanitize rooms at Trinity Hospital is giving a boost to the hospital's infection control program.

Trinity Health deployed two Xenex LightStrike™ Germ-Zapping Robots™ two years ago as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) – infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment in a hospital, such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), and Clostridium difficile (C. diff).

Sue Niebuhr, coordinator of Trinity Health's Infection Prevention and Control program, says an analysis of data from the first year of using the robots shows that HAI infection rates declined by almost half.

"We experienced an average 47% reduction in HAIs after adding pulsed xenon UV disinfection to our cleaning protocols," Niebuhr said. "MRSA infections were down by 34%; VREs declined by 69%; and C. diff infections were down by 39%. These results are in line with what other hospitals around the country have experienced and what research studies have indicated."

The Xenex robotic system is able to disinfect surfaces in just five minutes using pulsed xenon germicidal UV-C light, which is hundreds of times more intense than sunlight. The system has been shown to be extremely effective in destroying viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens on surfaces that could pose a health risk to patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged healthcare providers to intensify their efforts in the fight against multi-drug resistant organisms. Trinity Health was already following best practices recommended by the CDC for curbing infections. However, with funds made available by the Trinity Health Foundation, the hospital decided to add the Xenex system to its routine cleaning procedures as an extra measure of protection.

"Patient safety is always our first priority," Niebuhr said.   "We're constantly looking for ways to enhance our infection control efforts. These early results are encouraging and we look forward to continued improvements in the future."

Xenex Disinfection Systems
Xenex LightStrike Germ-Zapping Robots are used for the advanced disinfection of healthcare facilities. Due to its speed and ease of use, the Xenex system has proven to integrate smoothly into hospital cleaning operations. Xenex's mission is to save lives and reduce suffering by destroying the deadly pathogens and superbugs that cause hospital acquired infections (HAIs). The company is backed by well-known investors that include EW Healthcare Partners, Piper Jaffray Merchant Services, Malin Corporation, Battery Ventures, Tectonic Ventures, Targeted Technology Fund II and RK Ventures. For more information, visit Xenex.com.

Source: *https://www.xenex.com/resources/news/germ-fighting-robots-enhance-infection-control-trinity-health-reports-47-reduction-in-hais-after-adding-pulsed-xenon-uv-disinfection-to-cleaning-protocols/*

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