Research Exchange on Advancing Patient, Worker and Environmental Safety in the Health Care Sector through Green Cleaning

April 24, 2013

Susan Kaplan, J.D., Director & Peter Orris, M.D., M.P.H., Chair, Health Care Research Collaborative
Research Collaborative history

• Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided seed funding to Health Care Without Harm to launch a Research Collaborative in partnership with a group of leading health systems and other key partner organizations.

• A partnership between HCWH, the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, and the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health
Research Collaborative mission

• Develop, coordinate and disseminate research on the impact of health care sustainability on the intersection of patient safety, worker safety, and environmental safety

• Based on an understanding that these three “safeties” are profoundly interrelated - an innovation intended to impact one will often affect all three

• Help fill the need for information on best practices, post-occupancy evaluation, and intervention and cost effectiveness
White Paper series

Publish series of data reviews addressing several of the pressing questions before health systems and HCWH:

• *Resilient Flooring and Chemical Hazards: A Comparative Analysis of Vinyl and Other Alternatives for Health Care*

• *The Accuracy of Alternatives to Mercury Sphygmomanometers*

• *A Research Agenda for Advancing Patient, Worker and Environmental Health and Safety in the Health Care Sector*

• *Displacement Ventilation Research*
White paper series

• **Minding the Gap: Research Priorities to Address Pharmaceuticals in the Environment**
• **Sustainable Resilient Flooring Choices for Hospitals**
• **Creating a Culture of Sustainability**

Two papers address cleaning:

• **Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities: Reducing human health effects and environmental impacts**
• **Green Cleaning in Health Care: Current Practices and Questions for Future Research (includes case studies)**
Research Agenda

Health system executives highlighted several principles as priority criteria in developing a research agenda:

• Incorporation of patient, worker, and environmental safety
• Production of evidence to provide a decision making base for operations and construction of facilities
• Evaluation of the costs and benefits of proposed changes in new policies and practices

***Green cleaning a top priority
Current research priorities

• Green cleaning
• Resilient flooring and patient/worker falls, comfort, noise
• Results of first year of Healthier Hospitals Initiative
• Leaner energy
• Sustainable transportation
• Healthy food
• Post-occupancy evaluations of green building
• Green building and employee recruitment, retention, satisfaction, performance
Contact info and website

• Susan Kaplan, J.D., Director, Health Care Research Collaborative, kaplans@uic.edu
• Peter Orris, M.D., M.P.H., Chair, Health Care Research Collaborative, porris@uic.edu

• Website:
http://www.noharm.org/us_canada/reports/researchcollaborative.php