

Removal of Antibacterial Product from Clinical Soap and Lotions

Environmental and Human Health Impact: Elimination of Kaiser Permanente exposure to triclosan via clinical soaps and lotions.

Business Impact: No negative cost impact to the over \$3.5 million spent annually on such soaps and lotions.

Challenge

Although not part of Kaiser Permanente's product utilization guidelines (PUG) or standard, soaps containing triclosan have been available as part of Ecolab's product offering on our current contract for clinical soaps and lotions. Clinical soaps and lotions are those cleansers and moisturizers ubiquitously found throughout medical institutions to reduce the spread of infection by practitioners and others.

Some of these products contain the antibacterial triclosan. Triclosan is a common ingredient in many personal care products such as toothpaste and soap. However, an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found that regular use of antibacterial products provides no benefit over plain soap and water. In addition, the American Medical Association recommends against using triclosan in the home, because it may encourage bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Some studies have linked triclosan to disruption of thyroid function and to harming aquatic life when washed down the drain.

Aim/Goal

To eliminate the use of triclosan-containing products, such as clinical soaps and lotions, to reduce antibacterial resistance.

Team

Dana Trocino, Chair, Clinical Soaps and Lotions Sourcing and Standards Team (SST)

Clinical Soaps and Lotions SST

Dianne Mackey, Medical Core Chair

Erika Singer, Service Line Director, Broadlane

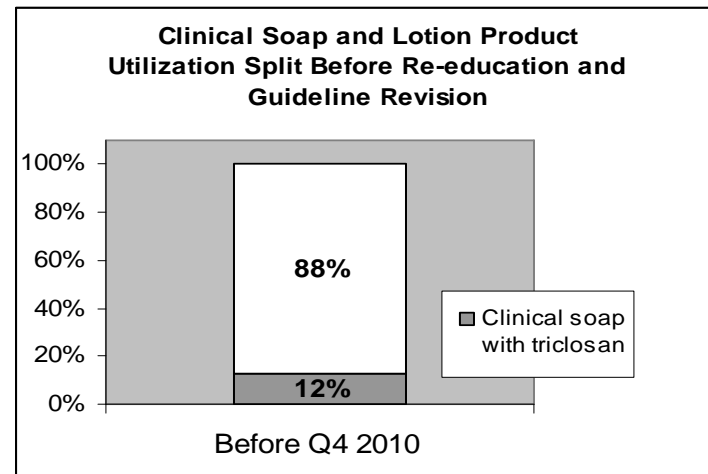
Actions Taken

- ✓ In light of national concern about highly resistant strains of bacteria causing unnecessary hospital acquired infections, Kaiser Permanente has taken on initiatives to reduce resistance and reduce infections. One such effort is rigorous and frequent hand

washing. However there is no clinical or infection control advantage to using an antibacterial product.

- ✓ The Clinical Soaps and Lotions SST, responsible for selecting soaps for the clinical setting, discovered that some departments were purchasing products containing triclosan.
- ✓ The SST documented which facilities were still using products containing triclosan and met with them to introduce better product choices that don't contain any triclosan.
- ✓ The team removed any antibacterial soaps and lotions from the agreement with Ecolab.

Results



Lessons Learned

- ✓ Ensure products in the PUG align with the contract so that undesirable products don't leak into Kaiser Permanente.
- ✓ Closely monitor product utilization to ensure it matches with the guidelines to prevent future product misuse.

Next Steps

- ✓ Communicate updated Ecolab contract to internal buyers.
- ✓ Ensure clinical staff understands why a change was made.
- ✓ Monitor usage and reinforce the guidelines.