

# Cooley Dickinson Hospital Reduces C.diff Infections by 53% with Xenex's UV Light Disinfection System; Results Published in American Journal of Infection Control

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. --

A study published in the August 2013 issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control* demonstrates that the use of high-intensity, broad spectrum ultraviolet light significantly decreased the rate of hospital-acquired *Clostridium difficile* (*C.diff*), and *C.diff*-related deaths and colectomies (removal of the colon) at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

The peer-reviewed journal article summarizes one year's results - Jan. 2011 through Jan. 2012 - when Cooley Dickinson Hospital's infection prevention team saw a 53 percent decrease in hospital-associated *C.diff*, a virulent germ that can cause diarrhea, sepsis, and death.

The results came about after Cooley Dickinson Hospital staff used Xenex Disinfection Services' portable ultraviolet (UV) room disinfection robots throughout the 140-bed facility. The abstract is available at [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(13\)00249-6/abstract](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(13)00249-6/abstract).

Hospital-acquired infections are a leading cause of death in the United States, killing roughly 100,000 Americans a year. A 2008 study published by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America found that fewer than 50 percent of surfaces get cleaned after a patient leaves a hospital room. Some germs, like *C.diff*, can live in the hospital environment for months.

To speak with the Cooley Dickinson Hospital infection prevention team/study authors or to obtain a copy of the study, contact [Christina\\_Trincher@cooley-dickinson.org](mailto:Christina_Trincher@cooley-dickinson.org).

## About Cooley Dickinson

Cooley Dickinson Hospital is an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and member of Partners HealthCare. The community hospital is ranked in the top 5 percent of all U.S. hospitals in patient safety by HealthGrades and is the only hospital in Massachusetts to achieve the HealthGrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ for five consecutive years (2009-2013). The VNA & Hospice of Cooley Dickinson is a 2012 HomeCare Elite™ agency. Cooley Dickinson's staff and physicians comprise a network of emergency, surgical, clinical, rehabilitative, and hospice and home care expertise that admits 6,000 patients, treats 40,000 emergency patients per year, delivers 800 babies, makes 49,000 home care and 10,000 hospice visits. Cooley Dickinson's vision is to make the mid-Pioneer Valley the nation's model healthy community. Learn more at [www.cooley-dickinson.org](http://www.cooley-dickinson.org).

## About Xenex Disinfection Services

Xenex's patented pulse xenon UV room disinfection system is a pesticidal device used for the advanced environmental cleaning of healthcare facilities. The Xenex system has been repeatedly shown to integrate smoothly into hospital cleaning operations because of its speed and ease of use. The Xenex mission is to eliminate bacteria, viruses, and spores in the patient environment that can cause hospital-acquired infections and to become the new standard method for disinfection in healthcare facilities worldwide. For more information, visit [www.xenex.com](http://www.xenex.com).