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Planning The **Modern Sluice Room**

Equip your hospital sluice rooms with state-of-the-art medical pulp macerators, bedpan washer disinfectors and incontinence product macerators.

Planning The Modern Sluice Room: At The Core Of Infection Control

A well-planned and suitably stocked sluice room is central to any reliable infection control procedure.

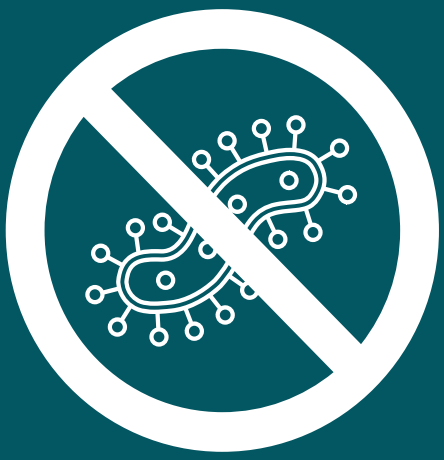
Aiding clinicians' efficiency and helping to predictably manage costs, its effective implementation can keep your facility in excellent operational health, while also ensuring staff, patients and residents are safe from potentially devastating HCAIs.

Whether A New Build Or A Refit, An Innovative Sluice Room Offers A Managed Service

Far more significant than just the storage and segregation of dirty materials, the right sluice room will provide reliable infection control to protect patients, as well as securing your clinical reputation.

When sluice room practices are fully efficient, they allow clinicians to spend more time with those in their care, instead of carrying out auxiliary tasks; similarly, ward closures due to infection are mitigated, with the pressures of low staffing reduced. When the chaos of HCAI outbreaks are prevented, facilities can maintain their excellent operational standards.

As a result, your patients or care home residents can receive the best possible care, without unnecessary threat to their wellbeing.



The Role Of The Sluice Room In Actively Preventing Infection

Those using bedpans are often the most vulnerable to infection – the elderly and the unwell. Adequate infection control can not only aid recovery and reduce the use of antibiotics but save lives too; HCAIs such as MRSA and Clostridium Difficile can be life-threatening, especially for the immunosuppressed.

Sluice rooms provide effective decontamination of reusable human waste containers (such as bedpans, commode pots and urine bottles) as well as hygienic disposal of single-use pulp equivalents. This is essential to prevent the spread of bacteria.

Decontamination is the process of cleansing an object or substance to remove contaminants, such as microorganisms or hazardous materials; this includes infectious diseases.

Inadequate decontamination (often from manual processes, such as washing bedpans by hand) can easily result in the transfer of infections to patients and clinicians and must be avoided as an absolute priority.

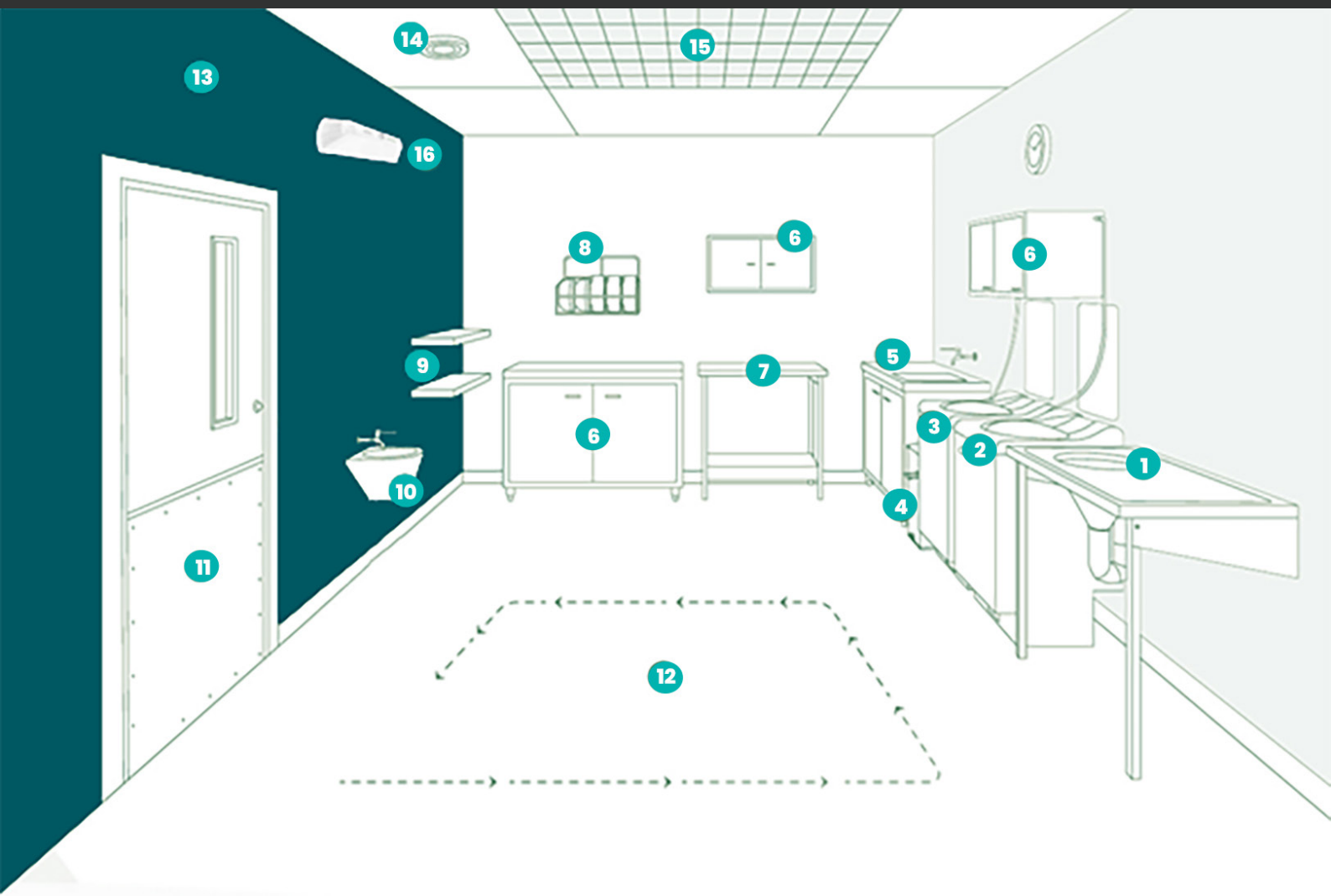
Sluice rooms can ensure that the spread of infection is stemmed, with decontamination and disposal procedures that are properly designed, maintained and controlled. This is achieved through excellent room planning and acquiring the best equipment to uphold NHS Standard Infection Control Procedures, as well as CQC requirements.

Sluice Room Equipment

The effectiveness of a sluice room is determined in the design stages.

Effective infection control can only be ensured when using the correct technology, fixtures and fittings; without appropriate planning, many of your efforts could become futile, with pathogens continuing to spread between workstations.

To achieve optimum infection control in your sluice room, there are a number of essential fixtures and fittings you should include:



1. **Disposal/Slop Hopper** – a temporary collection point for soiled/hazardous items, a backup disposal method in the event of power or mechanical failure, and a facility for filling and emptying cleaners' buckets.

2. **Washer disinfector** – to thoroughly disinfect reusable utensils such as bedpans, commode pots, urine bottles, etc.

3. **Pulp macerator** – to macerate and dispose of medical pulp containers and their contents.

4. **Foot-operated clinical waste bin** – to dispose of items such as gloves and aprons, without the need to touch a handle or the lid.

5. **Deep stainless steel sink** – for general washing and rinsing purposes.

6. **Storage cupboards** – for storing items such as single use disposable bedpans and replacement chemical bottles.

7. **Work surface** – temporary storage area for clean and disinfected items.

8. **Wall-mounted rack** – for temporary storage and drying of reusable utensils before returning them to rooms.

9. **Shelving** – for general storage. i.e. medical pulp utensils.

10. **Liquid soap dispenser** – with antibacterial soap to reduce the spread of infection.

11. **Stainless steel handwash basin** – located near the door to ensure hands are readily washed before disinfected items are touched and before exiting the room, with lever or sensor operated taps to prevent the spread of infection.

12. **Paper towel dispenser** – to dry hands after washing.

13. **Pedal bin** – for disposal of paper towels.

14. **Fire door (depending on local regulations)** – with stainless steel coatings for ease of cleaning.

15. **Sealed floor covering (vinyl or similar)** – suitable for washing in the event of spillage from utensils.

16. **Tiled or aseptic laminate walls** – to make the sluice room easier to clean.

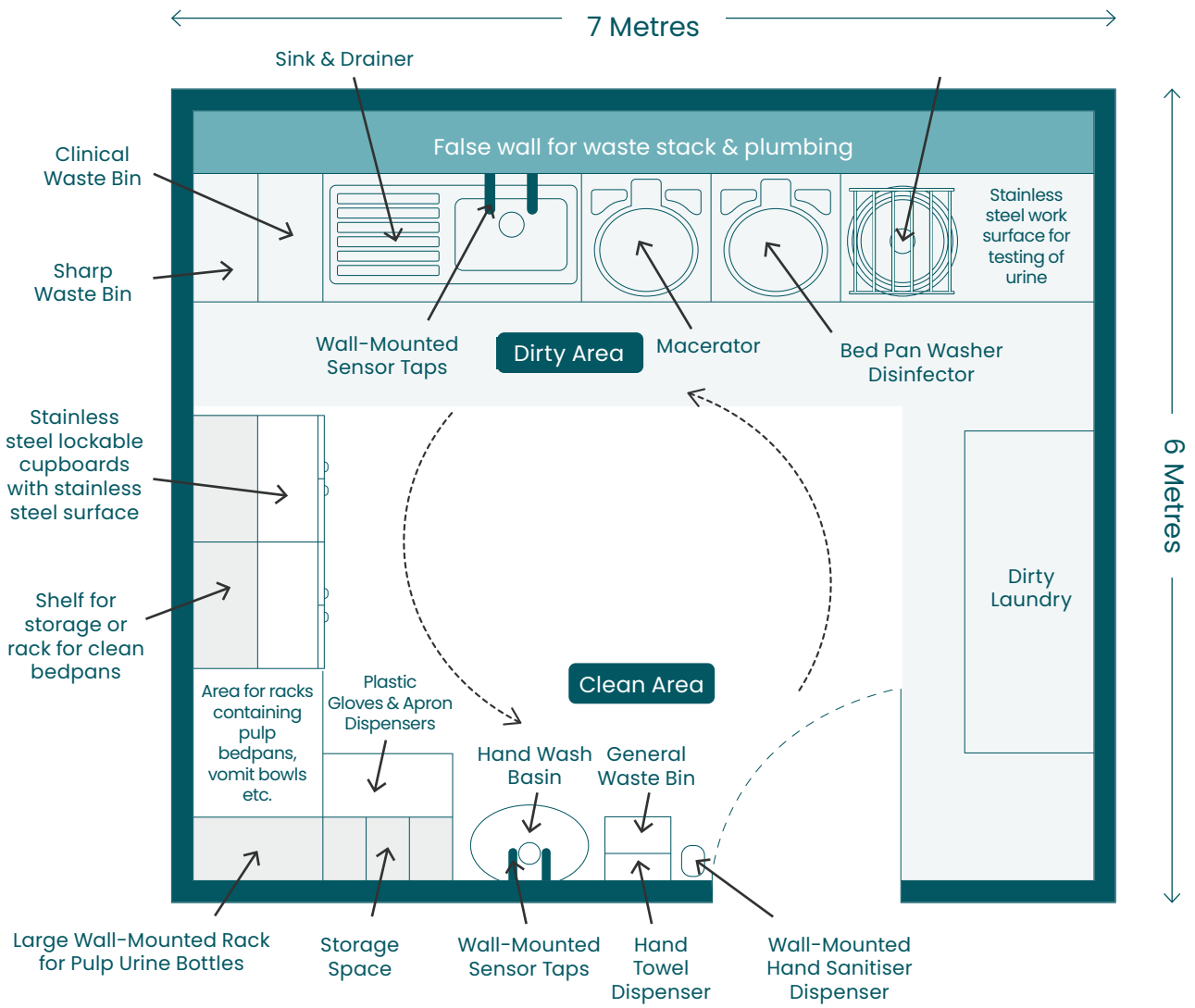
17. **Extractor fan** – to eliminate unpleasant odours and encourage laminar flow.

18. **Lighting** – energy efficient, sensor operated lighting system to reduce the spread of infection.

Sluice Room Workflow

The design and layout of a sluice room is just as critical as the furniture and equipment you choose to use; they should all share the common goal of hygienically disposing of waste, without allowing bacteria to spread.

Any clinician who enters a sluice room, as well as any utensils that need to be reused, should exit the area clean. To help with this, equipment should be grouped into 'dirty' and 'clean' workstations, with a clear flow which prevents cross-contamination.



The NHS Standard Infection Control Procedures (SICP) specify that waste should be disposed of as close to the point of care as possible. The actual location of the sluice room within the facility should, therefore, minimise travel distances for staff from patient areas. This will reduce the risk of spillage and associated contamination, as well as enhancing efficiency for clinicians.

SICP also recommend a series of habits for hand hygiene, with emphasis on cleaning one's hands after body fluid exposure. A well-planned sluice room will provide the right hand cleaning facilities, at the right time, to ensure that bacteria isn't carried back to the ward.

Technology Solutions

When it comes to enlisting the best technology to meet your sluice room needs, you'll first need to consider if your facility relies on reusable products, medical pulp, or a mix of both.

For reusable items, thermal disinfection is now considered essential for the decontamination of human waste containers. The steam used in the thermal disinfection process will successfully kill bacteria; a process which is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to achieve by hand.

If you're relying on medical pulp to handle your facility's human waste needs, you'll need a dependable disposal method, which will not only remove every trace of bacteria, but also the container itself; this process will need to be quick, effective and affordable, with frugal use of supplies.

Medical Pulp Macerators

Designed and developed to cater for busy wards, DDC's medical pulp macerators will quickly and hygienically dispose of medical pulp products.

Our unique nine-bladed technology allows for rapid disposal cycles, without compromising on efficiency, water usage or noise levels.

To prevent misuse which could result in a blockage, DDC's pulp macerators also include an audio instruction feature, which guides clinicians to use the machine correctly, every time. In addition, an auto start option will ensure that the lid of the pulp macerator is closed after 3, 5 or 10 seconds of being opened; this will naturally reduce instances of overloading.

Also featuring hands-free technology to help defend against cross-contamination, DDC's pulp macerators automatically cleanse the drum of the machine after each cycle, eliminate spores of 99.999% of major HCAIs, and meet EN1276 and EN13697 standards.

Bedpan Washer Disinfectors

When decontaminating reusable items, such as bedpans and urine bottles, a bedpan washer disinfector should be considered essential.

When utensils are placed inside a DDC washer disinfector, a steam generator heats the internal chamber to a minimum of 80°C, for at least one minute. This process will ensure that all proteins are denatured.

Using fixed and rotating wash nozzles, the wash array is carefully designed to maximise the dispersal of waste and washing fluid over the items, whilst simultaneously minimising water wastage.

The machine itself features hands-free technology to ensure no unnecessary contact with the machine is required, minimising the risk of the spread of infection. Meanwhile, antimicrobial coatings and crevice-free surfaces prevent the growth of harmful microbes.

Maintenance & Testing

Your sluice room will only be effective if it's 100% functioning. Effective and reliable maintenance should, therefore, be a carefully considered part of facilities management planning.

DDC employ an expert fleet of highly qualified engineers, capable of maintaining your sluice room machinery from wherever you are in the UK – regardless of the make or model.

Our services include:

- **Site and machine evaluation**
- **Room layout and connection advice for optimal performance**
- **Installation**
- **Machine commissioning**
- **Service and maintenance**
- **Testing to NHS guidelines**
- **Repairs**
- **Staff training**

DDC provide specialist testing for categories such as cleaning efficacy, drainage and water quality, to help ensure that your technology is working to its optimum ability.

Our expert knowledge of essential thermal testing guarantees that your machine achieves thermal disinfection levels set out by NHS periodic testing guidelines.

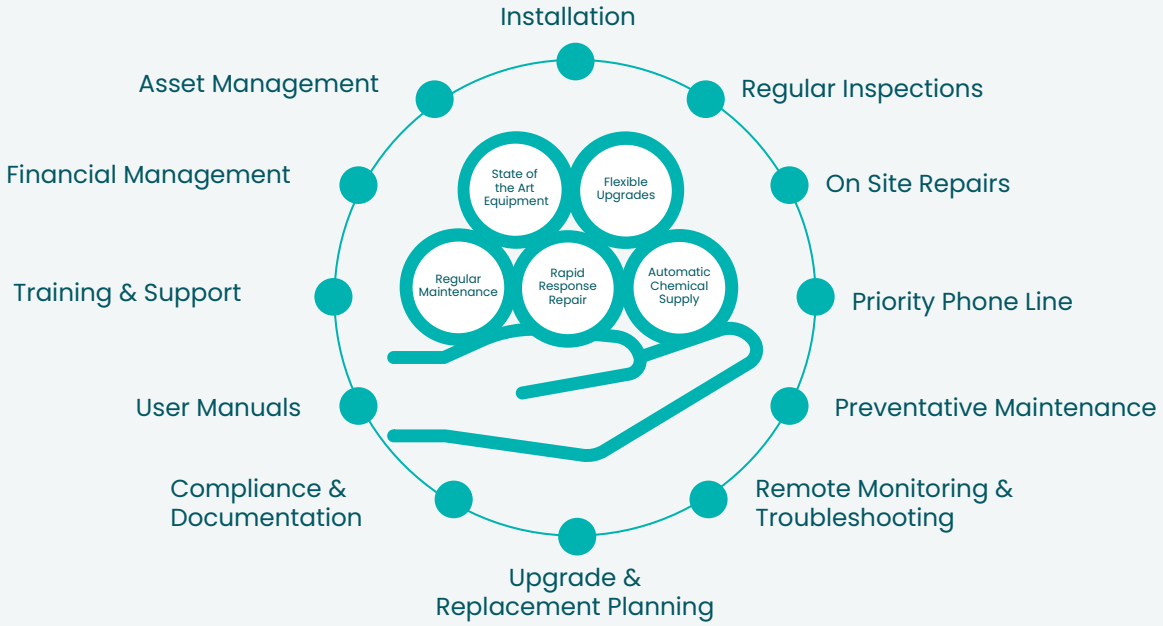
In addition, our nationwide network of engineers is the largest in the UK, allowing us to provide the support you need, rapidly, with no fear of prolonged machine downtime.

DDC Managed Service

Equip your hospital sluice rooms with state-of-the-art medical pulp macerators, bedpan washer disinfectors and incontinence product macerators.

Get all the machines, servicing, maintenance and consumables in one all-inclusive package designed specifically for hospitals. Smart, simple and effective sluice room management by DDC, a global leader in infection prevention and control.

At exceptional Value For Money, unlock the benefits of our **Fully Managed Service**. Our plan includes:



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IHEEM

+44 (0) 1202 731 555

INFO@DDCDOLPHIN.COM

DDCDOLPHIN.COM