


## Letter to the Editor

# Clean hospitals day 2023 marks the global launch of a self-assessment tool

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Healthcare environmental hygiene is increasingly recognized as critical in infection prevention and control (IPC). Much like its predecessor World Hand Hygiene Day, the objective of the Clean Hospitals Day, celebrated each year on October 20, is to raise awareness and foster engagement among healthcare facilities around the world. A newly published tool, the Healthcare Environmental Hygiene Self-Assessment Framework (HEHSF), has been developed and internationally validated to help healthcare facilities identify areas for improvement in their environmental hygiene programs as well as benchmark this improvement over time. Healthcare facilities can download the full promotional tool kit and posters (Appendix Fig. 1 online) for Clean Hospitals Day 2023 from [www.CleanHospitals.com](http://www.CleanHospitals.com).

The launch of the HEHSF tool in at least 7 languages (ie, Chinese, Croatian, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish) marks the first time that a global snapshot of healthcare environmental hygiene programs is being attempted. The tool is geared toward IPC experts and environmental hygiene managers to help them identify areas for improvement in their facilities. This tool has been in development since 2018, and it consists of a 96-question secure, online tool based on a multimodal improvement strategy. A pilot study using an earlier version of the tool was conducted by Clean Hospitals in 51 healthcare facilities in 35 countries.<sup>1</sup> The tool was further developed with the help of an international expert group and was validated internationally in 7 additional countries.

The HEHSF is published on the online platform REDCap, a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases. It is specifically geared to support online and offline data capture for research studies and operations. Available exclusively to institutions, REDCap is used by the most prestigious universities around the world. Currently, >6,600 institutions in >150 countries trust the security of the platform.<sup>2</sup> Although healthcare facilities that complete the HEHSF will have access to their own detailed data, only anonymized and aggregated data are shared. This factor is of utmost importance to ensure that healthcare facilities are comfortable being transparent when filling out the tool.

With global implementation, the HEHSF will give institutions a roadmap for improving their environmental hygiene, supporting environmental services staff, increasing the visibility of healthcare environmental hygiene on a global level, and saving lives by reducing healthcare-associated infections. The HEHSF and a full Clean Hospitals Day tool kit can be found on the Clean Hospitals website ([www.CleanHospitals.com](http://www.CleanHospitals.com)). The tool is also available at the following link: <https://redcap.link/HEHSF>. Let's improve healthcare environmental hygiene together and save lives.

**Supplementary material.** For supplementary material accompanying this paper visit <https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2023.208>

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