



Singapore Healthcare Management 2024

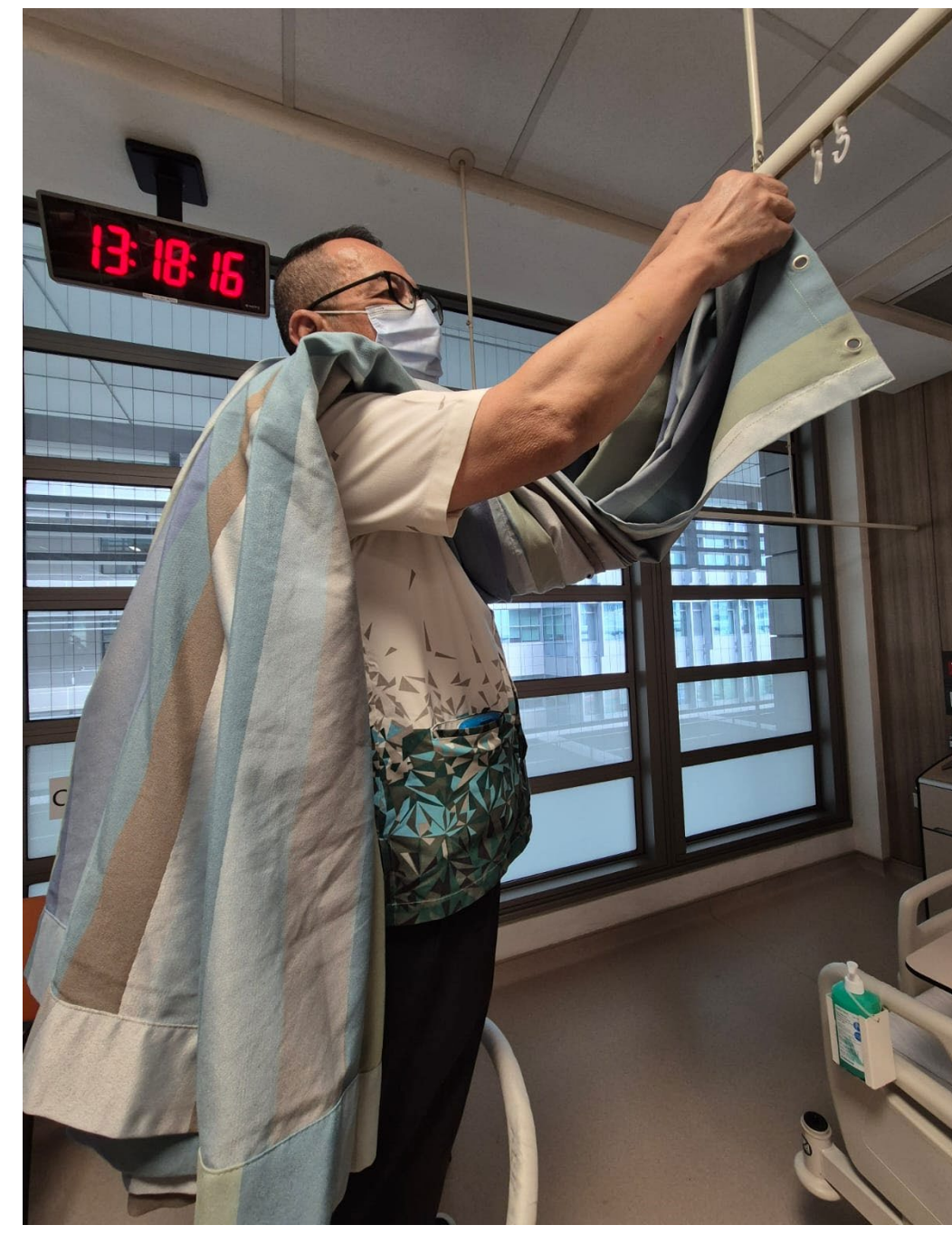
Improving Operational Efficiency of Housekeepers at Inpatient Wards

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Introduction & Aim

Curtain is one of most high touched areas and poses risk of environmental contamination as it can be a reservoir for pathogens. This is so despite routine monthly curtain change, upon infectious cases and during discharge. Endurocide Antimicrobial & Sporicidal hospital disposable curtains have been proven to be effective against microbial and sporicidal agents for up to 12 months in use. This study showed the pros outweigh the cons when converting to the use of disposable curtains at inpatient wards.

Methodology



Preparation of Curtain change

Scanning of RFID

Hanging of Curtain (on step ladder)

Ready for Patient Admission



Hang Disposable Curtain (input start date)

	Conventional curtain	Disposable curtain
Routine Change Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once in 12 months
Other change frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon infectious discharge, C+ cases, ad hoc activation by IPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When visibly soiled by bodily fluids

Results & Conclusion

	CONVENTIONAL CURTAIN	DISPOSABLE CURTAIN
COST SAVINGS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated cost saving from laundering is 63% (data from SCH-Finance).
OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial amount in manpower savings (58%) for changing curtain once a year. Significant time saving
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher possibilities of workplace injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less possible workplace injuries
SUSTAINABILITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save a tree by doing away with physical record forms! Reduction of carbon footprint by eliminating number of launder trips.

There is significant cost savings for using disposable curtains in terms of laundering and curtain replacement cost.

Productivity of housekeepers increase when they make less trips sending curtains for washing monthly to soiled linen collection point at basement. Not to mention the elimination of scanning of RFID tags during exchange and mundane curtain record keeping and tracking.

Time saved by housekeeper can be used for cleaning of patient care areas, patient surroundings and any ad hoc cleaning request.