How Antimicrobial Treated Switches & Wallplates Contribute to your Overall Infection Prevention and Control Program

With healthcare acquired infections (HAIs) on the rise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2011, there were an estimated 722,000 HAIs in U.S. acute care hospitals, with an additional 75,000 patients with HAIs died during their hospitalizations.* The Joint Commission Resource has released an Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for healthcare organizations to use as they develop their Infection Prevention and Control Programs, and more specifically, Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs.

When you look at the overall fundamentals of infection prevention and control (IPC) there are three major routes of transmission for pathogens within a health care organization. Those routes include:

- **Animate Transmission**: Someone becomes contaminated after contact with an infected patient, which is then transferred to another patient.
- **Inanimate Transmission**: Equipment used on a contaminated patient is then used on another patient.
- **Interaction between the Animate and Inanimate**: Transmission through “high-touch” surfaces, such as doorknobs, bed rails, and light switches.

An important route to diminish the spread of infection is through patient to patient transfer via high touch surfaces. Ensuring that high-touch surfaces are properly cleaned on a regular basis is of the utmost importance.

Leviton’s Antimicrobial treated stainless steel wall plates and mounting screws are protected with antimicrobial polyurethane powder coating that resists fingerprints and has been tested to ISO 7784.2 for durability. Additionally, the toggle and rocker material in Leviton’s Antimicrobial Treated Devices are embedded with a silver ion antimicrobial additive that inhibits the growth of bacteria and in turn helps to keep the product protected.

The coatings and plastics used in Leviton antimicrobial treated switches and wallplates have been independently lab tested to international industrial standard JIS Z 2801:2000. They have proven to inhibit 99.9% of harmful bacterial growth on the device’s surface, even after experiencing long-term cleaning with common products including ammonia, isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and bleach.

The inclusion of Leviton antimicrobial switches and wall plates play an important role in helping healthcare organizations achieve the goals of their IPC programs.

**To learn more about the guidelines pertaining to IPC, contact your local Joint Commission Resource representative.**

NOTE: Usual daily proper hygiene and cleaning procedures must be maintained with antimicrobial treated devices using approved cleaning products specified by your organization.

* CDC data and statistical information can be found at the following link: [http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/index.html)