

WHO SAYS PATIENTS DON'T
KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOUR
HOSPITAL IS CLEAN?

OR Sustainability Expert

FIRST CASE



KAREN GOELST
CEO & FOUNDER OF KLEENEDGE

First Case OR Sustainability Expert™:

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Karen Goelst | CEO & Founder of KleenEdge

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, patients and their families have become critically aware of the importance of disinfection of all high-risk touchpoints in the patient zone. This is especially true for recovering patients who are coming out of surgery.

Surgical site infections are very costly to the hospital, but even more so to the patient who is frequently impacted for life.

The CDC reports that 4.9M people contract a Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI), resulting in over 480,000 unnecessary deaths each year. Many agree that these numbers are underreported. HAIs are the 3rd leading cause of death following heart failure and cancer.

Why is it that the privacy curtain, touched by everyone, continues to fly under the radar as a source of contamination? It's not uncommon to be in a patient room and notice that the curtain label indicates that it has not been exchanged for 14 months.

FACT: Patient's perceptions of room cleanliness are associated with infection and mortality rates from 87 hospitals.

It's not surprising that patients and their loved ones "know clean when they see it" and that they value it. If enough patients are saying the hospital is not clean as evidenced by a curtain that hasn't been changed, hospital leadership should listen to them. Patients are making judgements about the quality of care when things are not as they should be and when best practices for cleaning are not being adhered to.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at kgoelst@KleenEdge.com

OR Sustainability Expert Series™ Biography:

Karen Goelst

Founder & CEO



With a 20-year background in architectural specialties and textiles, Karen Goelst became passionate about solving the issues surrounding privacy curtains following her 15-year-old son's hospital stay with MRSA.

Staying at his bedside she noticed everybody touched the fabric privacy curtain, but the label showed that it hadn't been exchanged for 14 months. Thankfully her son recovered, but this realization started her journey in trying to understand why curtains weren't getting exchanged, when other touchpoints in the room were thoroughly disinfected. Karen founded KleenEdge to ensure this infection risk did not impact other families.

KleenEdge builds its privacy curtain solutions on 4 pillars:

- Protocol software that monitors curtain exchange compliance
- Sustainable cost-saving recyclable curtains
- No-ladder solutions to promote lean workflows and safety
- Patient and staff safety

Launched in 2018, the company received early accolades for its innovative Protocol Compliance Software, receiving AHE's Product Innovation Award, as well as getting patents for the QuickLoad and TeleTrack "no ladder" curtain exchange cubicle track solutions. KleenEdge's solutions have helped many healthcare facilities dramatically reduce operational costs, while having peace of mind knowing that their curtain exchanges are compliant and deliver the highest standard of care for their patient's safety.



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