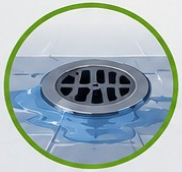


# JAM Session 19:

## DRAIN PROBLEMS ARE INFECTION PROBLEMS



What goes down the drain can come back up as a patient safety risk.



**SLOW DRAINS**



**SEWAGE ODORS**



**BACKUPS & OVERFLOWS**



**GERMS & BIOFILM**



**REPORT & CLEAN**



**See it. Report it. Prevent it.**



**SEE IT**

Notice slow drains, odors, leaks, or standing water.



**REPORT IT**

Notify the appropriate personnel.



**CLEAN IT**

Clean and disinfect using approved products.



**PREVENT IT**

Keep drains clear and areas clean and dry.

### WHY THIS MATTERS:

Hospital drains can harbor bacteria, mold, biofilm, and sewage contamination. When drains backup, splash, leak, overflow, or smell foul, they may spread contamination into patient care or food preparation areas.

### WATCH FOR:

- Slow draining sinks/floor drains
- Sewage odors
- Water backing up
- Overflowing drains
- Splashing from drains/sinks
- Standing water
- Wet floors near drains
- Gurgling noises
- Mold or slime buildup

### WHY IT'S A PROBLEM—Drain issues may contribute to:

- Environmental contamination
- Food contamination
- Splash contamination to nearby supplies/equipment
- Increased risk for multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)
- Slip hazards
- Patient/staff exposure to sewage

Some organisms can survive and grow in wet environments and biofilm.

### IF A DRAIN PROBLEM HAPPENS:

#### STOP

- Stop food prep or patient care activities in affected area if contamination risk exists

#### PROTECT

- Remove or cover nearby clean supplies/equipment
- Restrict access if needed

#### REPORT / NOTIFY

- Facilities Management
- Environmental Services
- Nursing supervisor/department leadership
- Infection Control
- Safety as applicable

#### CLEAN

- Ensure affected areas are cleaned/disinfected using approved disinfectants per Instructions For Use (IFU). Cleaning the visible spill alone may not fix the root problem. Recurring drain backups require investigation and corrective action.

#### QUICK STAFF MESSAGE

"If you smell sewage, see standing water, or notice drain backup — report it immediately. Small drain problems can become big infection problems."