

## Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach for The Control And Prevention of *Acinetobacter* Outbreaks Healthcare Facilities

---

The following published sources provide documentation regarding the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite solutions as a disinfectant against gram negative bacteria such as those of the genus *Acinetobacter*:

[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/isolation2007.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/isolation2007.pdf)

CDC acknowledges the sporicidal properties of bleach in its *Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007*. *Certain pathogens (e.g., rotavirus, noroviruses, C. difficile) may be resistant to some routinely used hospital disinfectants 275, 292, 842-847. The role of specific disinfectants in limiting transmission of rotavirus has been demonstrated experimentally 842. Also, since C. difficile may display increased levels of spore production when exposed to non-chlorine-based cleaning agents, and the spores are more resistant than vegetative cells to commonly used surface disinfectants, some investigators have recommended the use of a 1:10 dilution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) and water for routine environmental disinfection of rooms of patients with C. difficile when there is continued transmission 844, 848. In one study, the use of a hypochlorite solution was associated with a decrease in rates of C. difficile infections 847.* (See Pages 60-61: Section II.I Environmental Measures)

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2100077>

One study suggests the possible superiority of bleach over other disinfectants in outbreaks of *Acinetobacter*. *A study by Hujer and coworkers suggested that failure to completely disinfect treatment facilities contributed to nosocomial spread of Abc. In that study, 37% of isolates were acquired via nosocomial transmission.[46] At least 1 study has reported that hypochlorite solutions may be effective in disinfecting the hospital environment when other solutions have failed.[100]*