# How effective are interventions to improve cleaning of healthcare environments in low resourced settings?

Giorgia Gon



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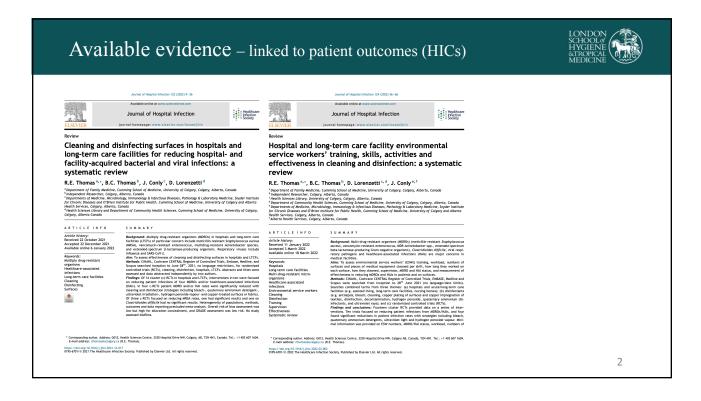
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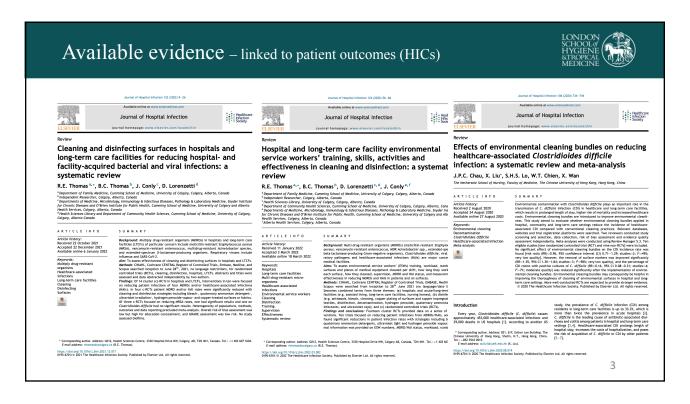
June 28, 2022

### Outline



- Available evidence
- · Ongoing systematic review
- CLEAN Workshop
- Exciting prospects ahead





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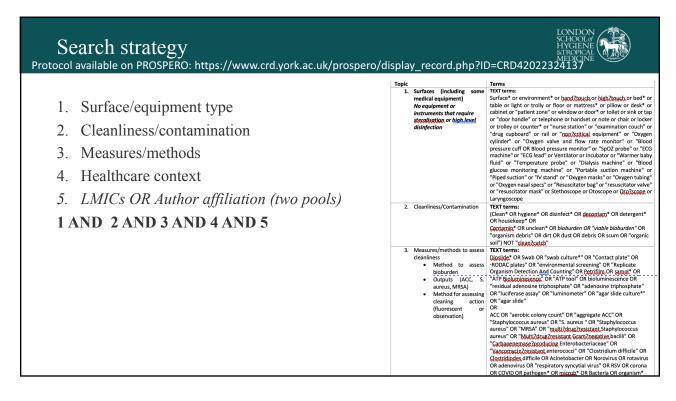


### Gaps

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

- 1. No reviews in low-income countries
- 2. No reviews of behavioral or multimodal interventions not linked to HAIs
- 3. Included higher quality studies





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### Inclusion criteria



Articles reporting on **surface cleanliness levels** in **healthcare environment** in **LMICs** Outcome

- Either
  - Use objective measures of cleanliness (bioburden/microbiological outcomes, OR mechanical e.g. through florescent markers or observed)
  - Report frequency of cleanliness (proportion, prevalence etc)
- -OR
  - Measure HAIs

Articles reporting on intervention to improve cleanliness levels

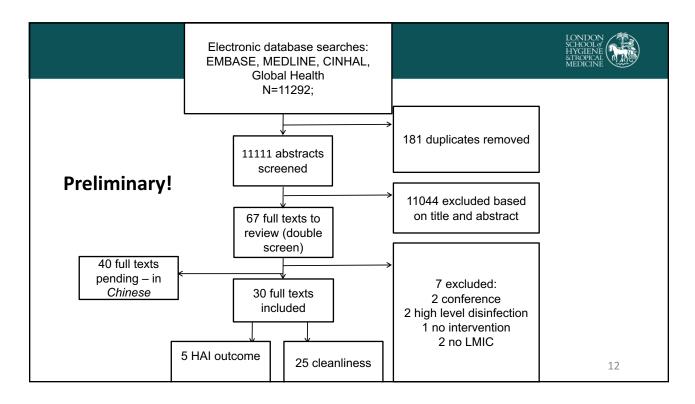
Published/peer-reviewed articles

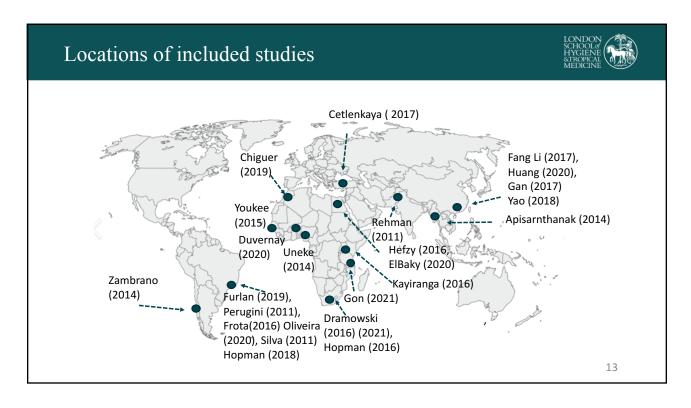
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### Exclusion criteria

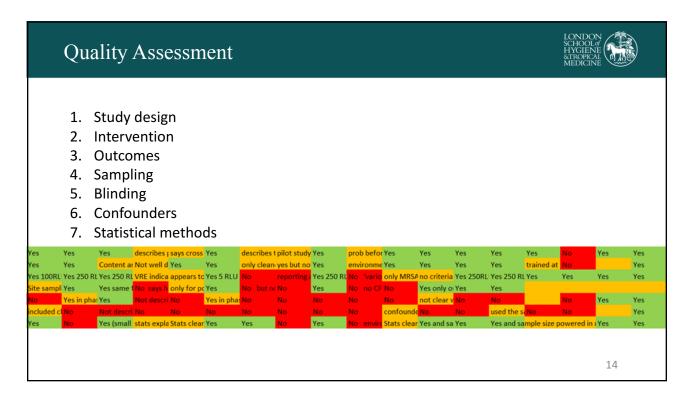


- Articles assessing cleanliness of equipment that requires high-level disinfection or sterilisation
- Cleaning intervention performed in spaces dedicated to animals (veterinary or animal laboratory)
- Studies focusing on the efficacy of specific disinfection products or surface coating (*because recent review on the topic*) unless included in a wider intervention bundle or taking a health system approach
- Studies evaluating ongoing cleaning and disinfection practice (no new intervention)





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### Preliminary results



- 1. Initial data extraction of English language papers
- 2. To translate and extract non-English papers
- 3. Full extraction of results and comparative synthesis yet to be completed.

### Study design and scope



- Most studies based on before and after designs.
- Almost all studies based in a single facility and many only in one department
- More studies in middle-income countries; those in low-income are still based in national referral or teaching hospitals → Little representation from district hospitals or rural health facilities.
- Often small sample sizes and brief periods of follow up.
- Most studies based in higher risk care settings, e.g. ICU, NICU, maternity units.
- Heterogeneity between surface sampling approaches



T. Gan et al. / Journal of Critical Care 41 (2017) 216–

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### Interventions



- Most included education but often precise elements of this not described in detail.
- Some are multimodal interventions (including preparatory contextualization of approach, physical infrastructure and materials, policy and organizational changes) but other studies included a single intervention.
- Target: audiences, those who have cleaning as a primary role, clinicians and patient relatives.



After Dramowski et al (2021)

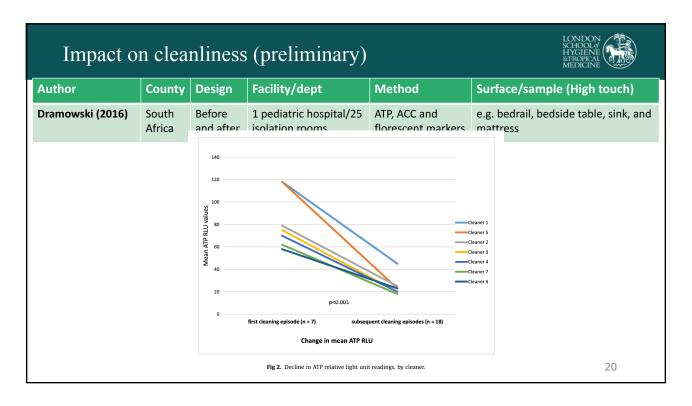
### Cleanliness outcome definition



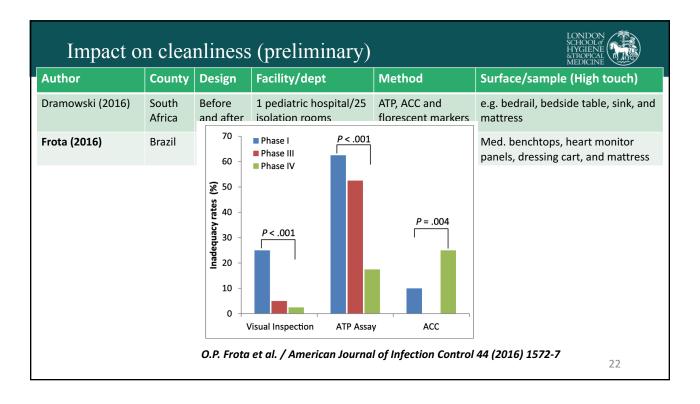
- Heterogeneity in standards, even when using the same approach e.g. anything from 3 to 250 RLUs considered clean when using ATP monitoring.
- Some targeting sampling for specific organisms e.g. MRSA, VRE or other MDROs.
- Microbiological methods included contact plates, swabs and dipslides. Some results reported as CFU per cm<sup>2</sup> others binary presence/absence of indicator organisms.



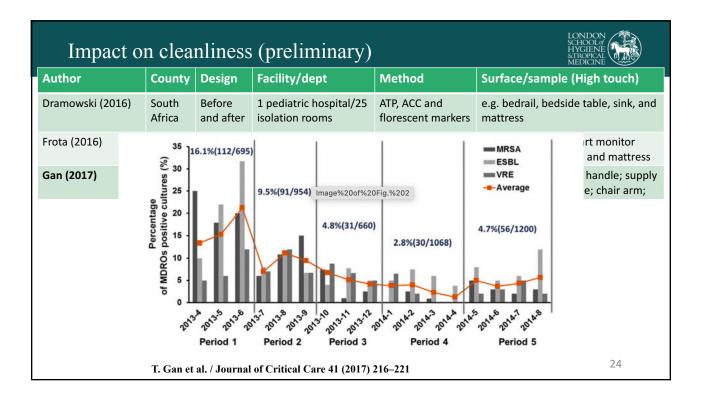
Impact on cleanliness (preliminary)					LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE STROPICAL MEDICINE
Author	County	Design	Facility/dept	Method	Surface/sample (High touch)
Dramowski (2016)	South Africa	Before and after	1 pediatric hospital/25 isolation rooms	ATP, ACC and florescent markers	e.g. bedrail, bedside table, sink, and mattress
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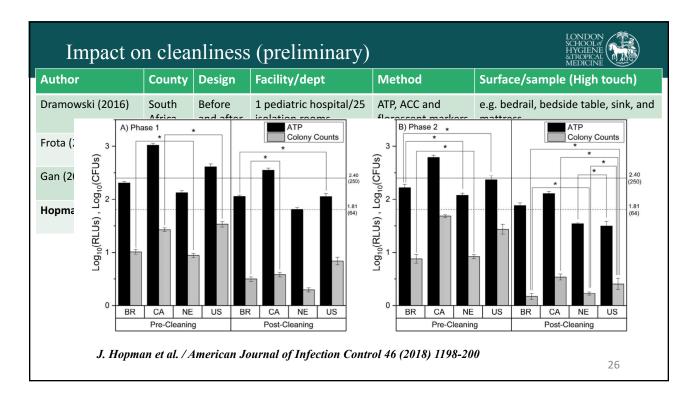
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					21



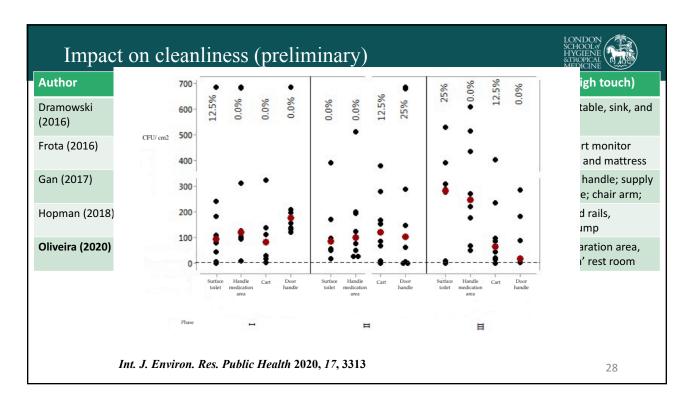
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Gan (2017)	China	Before and after	1 hospital/General ICU	Cultures, fluor. markers, ATP	e.g. bed rail; bedside handle; supply cart rail; bedside table; chair arm;
					23



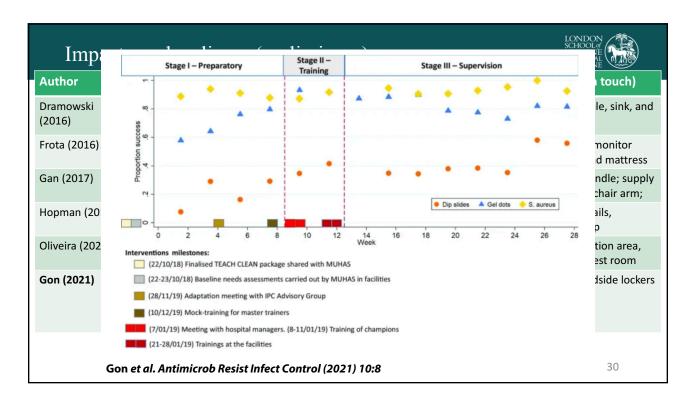
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Hopman (2018)	Brazil (+ 3 HICs)	Before and after	1 hospital/35 ICU beds	ATP, cultures, reflective markers	e.g. bedside table and rails, keyboard, infusion pump
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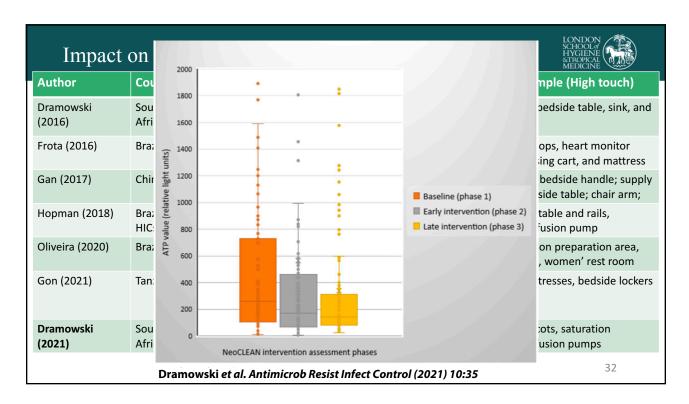
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Gon (2021)	Tanzania	Before and after	3 hospitals/labour, post-natal (vaginal and CS), neonatal wards	ACC, florescent markers	Bed rail, mattresses, bedside lockers
					29



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Dramowski (2021)	South Africa	Before and after	1 hospital/30-bed acute neonatal ward	ATP, florescent markers, cultures	mattresses, cots, saturation monitors, infusion pumps
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### Effectiveness (and power)



- Promising effect size of higher quality studies but weak designs
- Often weak correlations between testing approaches when used alongside each other, e.g. visual inspection, florescent marker, ATP and microbiological results.
- Even when strong effects noted the mechanism and process for change rarely explored in depth.
- Effects rarely sustained when studies did include longer follow up periods.
- Indication of interactions within complex systems in discussion sections, even if not formally studied, e.g. immediate sharing of results to cleaners also having an advocacy effect among facility managers.

### Summary findings (evidence gaps so far)



- Few thorough study designs (RCT/quasi-experimental)
- Reporting quality poor
- Few on cleaning medical equipment that does not require sterilization
- No standard outcome definition for cleanliness
- Few from minimal resourced settings (just one healthcare facility, often teaching hospitals)
- Lacking contextual descriptions (e.g. WASH infrastructure) in the majority of studies
- → more primary research needed

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# So... LONDON MEDICINE MEDICINE 15

### So... the CLEAN Workshop





Focus: Research needed to inform or enhance implementation of best practices in surface and non-critical equipment cleaning in LMIC healthcare facilities

- Evidence-based gaps
- Select research questions
- Prioritise together

**Output**: Produce a brief based on consensus which describes the research agenda (strategic thinking) targeting researchers, policy experts and funders

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### Positioning



- Regional representatives from across Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia, North and South America. Largest representation from Europe and Africa.
- Group of civil servants, academics, policy developers and operational implementers from government ministries and agencies, academic institutions and I/NGOs.
- Conducting high-level work that is addressing the needs of cleaning staff in LMI countries who currently have no direct involvement in this project.
- A few operational implementers present and so valuable evidence from other sectors may be missed.

### Why? The invisible workforce



- Evidence suggests that in many LMICs hospitals environmental hygiene faces substantial gaps in policies, resources and training.
- Research gaps in current published work
- The neglected role of cadre
  - In most contexts cleaning staff are recognized to predominantly be women and of low-social-economic status
  - Hierarchical hospital structure
  - Poorer working conditions

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### Why? The invisible workforce



PMCID: PMC6338282

PMID: 31154993

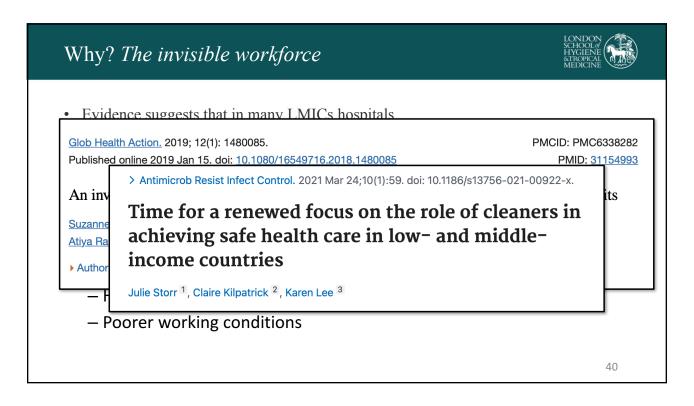
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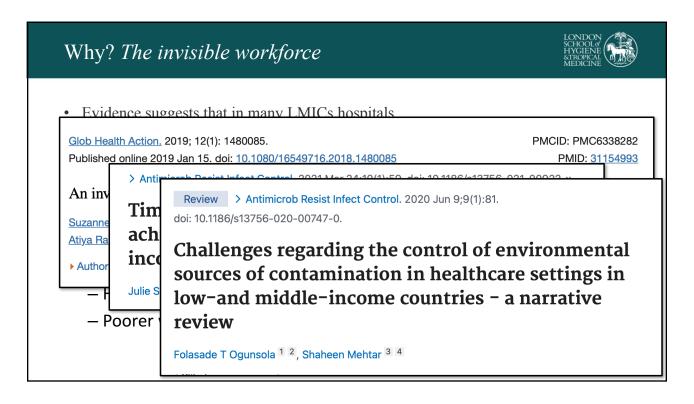
Glob Health Action. 2019; 12(1): 1480085. Published online 2019 Jan 15. doi: 10.1080/16549716.2018.1480085

An invisible workforce: the neglected role of cleaners in patient safety on maternity units

Suzanne Cross, <sup>a</sup> Giorgia Gon, <sup>b</sup> Emma Morrison, <sup>a</sup> Koasar Afsana, <sup>c</sup> Said M. Ali, <sup>d</sup> Tina Manjang, <sup>e</sup> Lamin Manneh, <sup>f</sup> Atiya Rahman, <sup>g</sup> Deepak Saxena, <sup>h</sup> Kranti Vora, <sup>h</sup> and Wendy J. Graham<sup>a,b</sup>

- ▶ Author information ▶ Article notes ▶ Copyright and License information <u>Disclaimer</u>
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### Theme-based streams



### 1. HEALTH SYSTEMS

RQ: What is the optimum number of cleaners required for each area, and how would this be calculated?

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### 2. BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

RQ: What are effective behaviour change techniques to establish a facility culture (values) of environmental cleanliness?

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### Theme-based streams



### 1. HEALTH SYSTEMS

RQ: What is the optimum number of cleaners required for each area, and how would this be calculated?

### 2. BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

RQ: What are effective behaviour change techniques to establish a facility culture (values) of environmental cleanliness?

### 3. INNOVATION

RQ: Are detergents alone non-inferior to the use of detergents plus disinfectants in reducing bioburden on non-critical/low-touch surfaces in low resourced setting HCF?

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### Thank you for listening



These slides represent the work of the CLEAN Workshop organizing committee: *Angela Dramowski, Emilio Hornsey, Wendy J Graham, Claire Kilpatrick, Nasser Fardousi* and the CLEAN Workshop participants!

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wv	ww.webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php
July 14, 2022	HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC  Speaker: Prof. Keith Woeltje & Debbie Cray, Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
July 27, 2022	(European Teleclass) RISK FACTORS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SPREAD OF DIFFERENT MULTI DRUG-RESISTANT ORGANISMS Speaker: Dr. Jean Ralph Zahar, Hôpitaux de Paris, France
August 10, 2022	(South Pacific Teleclass)  HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA – WHY SHOULD WE BOTHER AND  WHAT CAN WE DO?  Speaker: Prof. Brett Mitchell, University of Newcastle, Australia
August 23, 2022	(European Teleclass)  DATA QUALITY INDICATORS IN NATIONAL TB INFECTION CONTROL  PROGRAMS: READING BETWEEN THE LINES  Speaker: Dr. Eltony Mugomeri. Africa University. Zimbabwe

