

News | Articles | November 12, 2025

"The Dirty Truth About Stethoscopes" and Other Must-Reads in ICT's November/December 2025 Print Issue

Author(s) [Tori Whitacre Martonicz](#)

The November/December 2025 issue of Infection Control Today® dives into overlooked risks, breakthrough technologies, and the people driving innovation across IPC, EVS, and sterile processing. From bacteriophage therapy to burnout prevention, automation to UV regulation—it's a powerful close to the year.

Read the issue now:

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/journals/infection-control-today> #InfectionPrevention #Healthcare #InfectionControl #EVS #IPC #PatientSafety #ICT



As 2025 draws to a close, infection preventionists everywhere are facing both remarkable advances and



Advertisement

Advertisement

Trending on Infection Control Today



*Infection Control
Today's
November/December 2025 Print
Issue*

Remarkable advances and sobering reminders of the basics we cannot afford to overlook. The November/December 2025 issue of *Infection Control Today*® explores both sides

of that reality, including how to bridge emerging technologies with timeless fundamentals that define strong infection prevention and control (IPC) programs.

The cover story, **"The Dirty Truth About Stethoscopes,"** examines one of the most handled yet least cleaned medical tools in health care. From contamination data to practical decontamination protocols, this feature uncovers how stethoscopes can serve as hidden reservoirs for pathogens and why routine disinfection must become a clinical standard. It is a wake-up call reminding us that sometimes the simplest objects demand the most vigilance.

Our **Advanced Technology** topic looks toward the future of antimicrobial resistance and automation. In **"Multidrug-Resistant Infections Necessitate Bacteriophage Treatment: Can We Get There in Time?"**

Edward "Ted" Wright, PhD, explores bacteriophage therapy's promise as antibiotic resistance accelerates worldwide. Meanwhile, Marjorie Wall, EDBA, CRCST, CIS, CHL, CSSBB, in **"The Human Factor in**

- 1 The Dirty Truth About Stethoscopes: Why This Everyday Tool Deserves Attention
- 2 Paying for Prevention: How to Fix AMR's Broken Incentives
- 3 What's in an Egg: The Age-Old Vaccine Production Method Lives On

Automation,” reminds readers that even the most advanced systems still rely on human competency, training, and judgment.

Leadership and workforce well-being take center stage in **“Motivating Leadership**

and the Team to Improve Employee Engagement, Reduce Burnout, and Build Career Paths,” by Betsy Donahue, MA. As health care teams continue to recover from years of strain, this article offers actionable guidance to strengthen morale and retain top IPC talent.

On the **Environmental Services (EVS)** front, **“UV Technology and FDA Authorization: What Every Health Care Leader Should Know”** unpacks the evolving regulatory landscape for whole-room UV microbial-reduction systems. Hospitals have invested heavily in UV disinfection “robots,” but do all of them meet FDA medical-device standards? This feature provides clarity for EVS leaders, infection preventionists, and executives alike.

The **Operating Room** topic turns its lens to specialty settings. Rebecca Leach, MPH, BSN, RN, CIC, explores **“Elevating Infection Prevention in Dental Clinics,”** where surgical site infection prevention is finally gaining the attention it deserves. A separate study review, **“Sterile Towels for Surgical Hand Antisepsis? New Study Says Clean**

Hand Antisepsis: New Study Says Clean Paper Works at a Lower Cost," challenges long-held assumptions with fresh evidence and fiscal practicality.

Heather Stoltzfus, MPH, RN, CIC, presents this month's *Bug of the Month*, "**When the Horses Fell Silent,**" blending microbiology, storytelling, and clinical lessons for modern practitioners. The *Prevention* and *HAI* topics go deeper, with pieces on the **rising threat of NDM-CRE** and how **postinfection reviews** can uncover correctable drivers of health care-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections.

For those tracking the pulse of the profession, the **Conference Coverage** feature brings you to **IDWeek 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia**, capturing key takeaways and future research directions that will shape infection prevention strategies in the coming year.

Finally, the **Terminal Clean** column, "**Back to Basics: Why It's the Smartest Move in IPC Right Now,**" closes the issue with a powerful reminder: Even as we pursue innovation, excellence starts with consistent, meticulous fundamentals.

From high-tech breakthroughs to the humble stethoscope, every article in this

issue reflects a single theme: Advancing patient safety through knowledge, collaboration, and action.

Read the full November/December 2025 issue now at

infectioncontroltoday.com/journals/infection-control-today, and step into 2026 inspired, informed, and ready to lead the next era of infection prevention.

Newsletter

Stay prepared and protected with Infection Control Today's newsletter, delivering essential updates, best practices, and expert insights for infection preventionists.

Subscribe Now!

Related Content



**Paying for Prevention:
How to Fix...**

By
Tori Whitacre
Martonicz

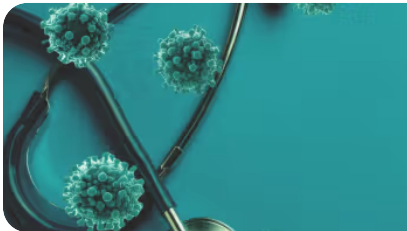
November 20th
2025



What's in an Egg: The Age-Old Vaccine...

By
Anthony Onunga,
MBChB

November 20th
2025



The Dirty Truth About Stethoscop...

By
Tori Whitacre
Martonicz

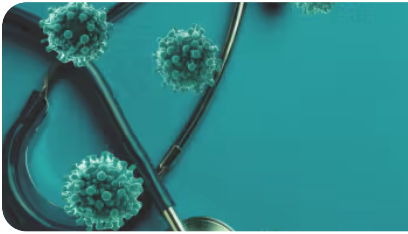
November 19th
2025



The Human Factor in Automation:...

By
Marjorie Wall,
EDBA, CRCST, CIS,
CHL, CSSBB

November 18th
2025



Elevating Infection Prevention i...

By

Rebecca Leach,
MPH, BSN, RN, CIC



November 17th
2025

[Advertise](#)

[About Us](#)

[Editorial Board](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Job Board](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

[Cookie settings](#)

Contact Info



259 Prospect Plains Rd, Bldg H
Cranbury, NJ 08512



609-716-7777

MJH



© 2025 MJH Life Sciences®

All rights reserved.

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[News](#)

[Contact Us](#)