

CASE STUDY |

Isle of Wight NHS Trust launches ambulance decontamination pilot project supported by Inivos' ProXcide technology



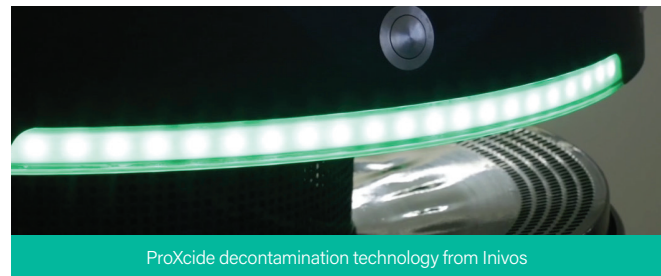
The Isle of Wight NHS Trust became the first in the UK to launch an ambulance decontamination programme for all emergency and non-emergency vehicles. This new process, utilising Inivos' ProXcide hydrogen peroxide vapour (HPV) technology, removes viral and bacterial micro-organisms from vehicles. This ensures the same standards of clinical decontamination that are achieved inside the hospital, are maintained outside the hospital as well, covering all areas of patient care services and pathways.

The challenge

The challenge the Trust faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, like many others, was that emergency blue-light vehicles must be readily available, leaving a short turnaround time after patient handover for cleaning. Taking a vehicle out of service for up to 2 hours for a full decontamination service simply wasn't feasible. An effective cleaning process was required, which could be integrated into the existing routine, to proactively prevent the spread of infections without impacting the availability of the emergency vehicles. The ultimate need was to ensure patient safety and remove the possibility of transportation in contaminated vehicles.

The solution

Inivos worked with ambulance fleet managers and Office Station Managers (OSMs) to understand planned and unplanned maintenance of the emergency vehicle fleet, including 30 ambulances. By pinpointing 'scheduled downtime' it was possible to establish where decontamination could take place. This enabled a pilot programme to be created facilitating the decontamination of vehicles when they were already deemed 'out of action'. OSMs worked with the Make Ready team to get the vehicles prepared correctly ahead of decontamination; deep cleaning the vehicle, opening all cupboards and spreading equipment around the ambulance to maximise the surface area exposed to the hydrogen peroxide vapour. The space was then treated similarly to a typical hospital ward space by taping up open outlets and sealing gaps with vapour-impermeable sealant tape. The ambulance ramp was used to position the ProXcide unit with the power cable threaded through the crew hatch and



ProXcide decontamination technology from Inivos

passenger window, sealing around the cable with tape to allow HPV exposure to the cabin, whilst adhering to health and safety measures, keeping the vapour inside the vehicle.

To limit the impact that these additional processes had on the time commitment required by staff, the Trust appointed a Decontamination Champion to oversee the programme and enforce correct procedures. The role required a great communicator who fully supported and understood the vision of what the Trust was trying to achieve.

The success of the programme was underpinned by the commitment from affected teams, who understood the benefits and had seen the positive results from the pilot programme. This included the Director of Nursing, the Infection Control Team, Consultant Microbiologist, and Head of Nursing for Integrated Health and Emergency Care.

The accomplishments of the decontamination programme for the ambulance fleet has in turn been rolled out to patient transport service (PTS) vehicles as well, seizing opportunities for all hospital patient vehicles to be decontaminated.

Andrew Donegan, Head of Facilities at Isle of Wight NHS Trust commented:

"We're proud to be the first NHS Trust to take this step to decontaminate ambulances in this innovative way, meaning our emergency staff can carry out their work in a safe environment that matches that of their hospital-based colleagues and our patients can be confident they are receiving care to the highest standards of infection control.

"As we already use ProXcide, Ultra-V and ProXpod technology across the hospital to decontaminate shared patient equipment, it was a natural next step to extend that high standard of decontamination to our emergency vehicles.

"This is made possible by our unique identity as England's only integrated acute, community, mental health and ambulance health care provider, providing a wide range of health services."

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Tautvydas Karitonas, head of research and development at Inivos commented:

"We're so pleased that Isle of Wight have launched this innovative and forward-thinking pilot programme to bring the same high standard of clinical decontamination from the hospital out to emergency responder and patient transport vehicles.

"Our ultraviolet-C and hydrogen peroxide vapour technologies are already used by more than half of NHS Trusts; however, we believe that clinical decontamination technology will soon become the norm in clinical services of all kinds as forward-thinking trusts like Isle of Wight look to secure best-in-class technology to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of their patients during this pandemic."



Isle of Wight NHS Trust ambulance team

The product

ProXcide is designed to effectively decontaminate clinical and public environments of potentially dangerous micro-organisms – including the SARS-CoV-2 pathogen which causes the COVID-19 virus.

Already in use in hundreds of hospitals across the UK, HPV technology can reduce viruses and bacteria to safe, non-infective levels in under two hours by breaking down their genetic code. It also deactivates and removes the HPV from the environment

ABOUT ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

Isle of Wight NHS Trust is the only integrated acute, community, mental health and ambulance health care provider in England. Established in April 2012, the Trust provides a full range of health services to an island population of 140,000, which increase significantly in the summer months.

at the end of a decontamination cycle, meaning emergency responders don't need to wait for vapour to dissipate naturally before the vehicle is back in commission.

ProXcide, a mobile decontamination robot, is remote-controlled to ensure operator safety and provides validation reports at the end of each cycle so paramedics can be confident that a decontaminated vehicle is safe for patients to enter.

Inivos, who are leading UK experts in infection prevention and control, regularly decontaminate over 50% of NHS Trusts in the UK – and hundreds more around the globe – with their innovative hydrogen peroxide vapour and ultraviolet-C light technologies.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the company has developed several ground-breaking new technologies to support hospitals, care homes, dental surgeries and hospices with their infection prevention and control requirements.

Their range of products include ProXpod, a rapid-deployment chamber which uses HPV to effectively decontaminate PPE, Ultra-V Connect, a fixed remote ultraviolet-C (UV-C) decontamination device ideal for use in high traffic areas, as it can reduce pathogens to a safe level in as little as eight minutes. All equipment is fully validated both in laboratory and real-world settings.

ABOUT INIVOS

Inivos are leading experts in hydrogen peroxide vapour (HPV) and ultraviolet-C light (UV-C) decontamination technology, services and assessments which identify and eliminate viruses, bacteria and other contaminants from hospitals and businesses.

Since Inivos was founded in Kings Lynn in 2007, it has worked with hundreds of organisations around the world – including more than half of NHS Trusts – to eradicate potentially dangerous pathogenic microorganisms and ensure spaces are safe for habitation.

Through unparalleled knowledge of the behaviours and factors that transmit viruses and bacteria, the levels at which various microorganisms are infective for humans and how decontamination technology can be applied to a variety of environments, Inivos design effective infection prevention and control solutions that are supported by peer-reviewed evidence as radically reducing contaminants.

Did you know... Inivos have a 24/7 On-Call Decontamination Service that can respond anywhere in the UK within 8 hours



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