



Humber Teaching
NHS Foundation Trust

The Challenges of Dispensers in Mental Health Environments

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Introduction: Infection Prevention in Mental Health

- Safety and Hand Hygiene- balance effective hand hygiene with ligature-reduced design to protect service users.
- IPC Standards- follow IPC manual and standards with reliable, approved products and maintained dispensers.
- Governance and Training- coordinate estates, safety, and clinical teams, positions safe dispensers, and train staff across risk areas.



Dispenser design, placement and risk

- NHS Standard Infection Control Precautions state to use approved soap and alcohol-based hand rubs.
- Dispensers should be curved/ sloped surfaces, no levers, sharp edges, or anchor points. To be tamper-resistant, concealed mechanisms.
- Robust and cleanable materials
- Compatible with approved solutions, metered dosing, and one-handed use to support supervision.
- Limit placement in high-risk areas, use staff carried or supervised stations



Humber NHS- Where we started

- Humber Teaching NHS are well- established for our governance framework, with CERG meetings and ligature audits.
- Initially we used an Ecolab and pouch soap dispenser, which became unavailable.
- Brought in a metal dispenser, with amendments to make low risk.
- Staff carry low alcohol- based hand rub, or non alcohol - based hand rub.



Humber NHS- Challenges and risks

- Metal dispensers not easy to clean, going rusty. Reducing hygiene standards.
- Still has areas to hide items in.
- Consistent negative feedback from staff and patients on usability and appearance.
- Market challenges: Dispensers are too bulky, metal based, expensive, not suitable nor appealing for patient facing environments.



Humber NHS- Where we are now and the future

- No longer changing like for like, paused further development of metal dispensers.
- Temporary use of Ecolab pouch-based dispensers, already used in staff areas.
- Not ligature-safe, but currently least risk, most practical option to maintain facilities and standards.
- Managed per site on their risk register.
- CERG to approve future dispenser suitable for all, with the least risk, preferably with no amendments required.



ANY QUESTIONS?



What do you do in your
Trust?

What challenges do you
face?