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Abstract Title:	7 Strategies Used To Mitigate Mold Infections
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Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Describe the process of investigation used to determine if environmental sources were a causative factor for mold infections.2) Identify common environmental sources with the potential for creating mold spores.
Abstract:	<p>Introduction/Background: Mold infections are rare but deadly opportunistic infections, which have devastating effects on thermally injured, and immune compromised patients. Two cases were identified in close succession in our ICU.</p> <p>Brief evaluation of the literature: The literature highlights environmental sources as the etiology of mold infections. AIM: Prevention of additional mold infections in thermally injured patients through scrupulous assessment of the patient's environment.</p> <p>Methods/Design: A multi-disciplinary team capable of mounting a comprehensive investigation of the patient's environment was formed. The team included the Burn Surgery Director, Senior Nurse Practitioner, and Burn Educator, Nursing Leadership, Infection Preventionist, Clinical Pharmacist, Biomedical Engineering, and Environmental Services. We looked at environmental factors inclusive of equipment maintenance and cleaning, room environment maintenance and cleaning, integrity of mattress's, changing of privacy curtains, and water filters. Surveillance of every patient room was carried out to assess for sources of mold and for cleanliness.</p> <p>Results/Findings: Several environmental sources were found that may be significant contributors in our patient population.</p> <p>Conclusion/Implications: We have revised processes; (1) Biomedical Department altered the way work orders were produced to ensure air filters in forced air warmers are changed per manufacture recommendations, (2) Forced air warmers and other specialty equipment now undergo a standardized cleaning process after each patient use, (3) Forced air warmers are no longer used without an attached disposable blanket, (4) The practice of changing a patient room weekly was re-instituted, (5) Privacy curtains are changed with each</p>

transfer, (6) suction regulators were changed and practice altered, and (7) compromised mattresses were replaced.

