TITLE: Transmission of Legionella When Using Humidifiers in Health-Care Facilities: Evidence for Risk and Guidelines

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Is there evidence to support the transmission of legionella when humidifiers are used in health-care facilities?

2. Are there guidelines advising against the use of humidifiers in health-care facilities?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2004 and February 2009, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One observational study and two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the transmission of legionella and humidifiers in health-care facilities. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, RCTs, or controlled clinical trials were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified.

Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified.

Observational studies

Guidelines and recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Additional references