



Ecolab Partners with the Joint Commission's Center for Transforming Healthcare to Improve Patient Safety

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sep 10, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced today it is partnering with the Joint Commission's new Center for Transforming Healthcare to support a study to improve hand hygiene. The goal of the study, which will be conducted at eight leading hospitals and health systems, is to eliminate hand hygiene as a cause of healthcare associated infections (HAIs).

According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 100,000 deaths occur each year in U.S. hospitals due to HAIs. Proper hand hygiene is the single most effective method for preventing these infections.

"Ecolab shares the Joint Commission's vision and commitment to reduce HAIs and improve patient safety," said Paul B. Chaffin, vice president, Ecolab Healthcare North America. "Poor hand hygiene and improperly cleaned patient rooms can elevate the risk of infection, so we have designed comprehensive infection prevention solutions, integrated with training and support, to optimize overall performance and drive continuous improvement."

Chaffin added, "Through our products and programs, Ecolab can help deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for patients and healthcare providers."

The Center for Transforming Health Care is a private-sector solution for improving patient safety and quality by eliminating preventable complications such as healthcare associated infections, medication errors, injuries and avoidable surgical complications, and associated costs that are endemic in health care delivery today. The Center's participants, who include the nation's leading hospitals and health systems, use a proven systematic approach to analyze specific breakdowns in patient care, discover their underlying causes and then develop targeted solutions that solve these complex problems.

An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the leading standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. It evaluates and accredits more than 16,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Since 1951, the commission has maintained state-of-the-art standards that focus on improving the quality and safety of care provided by health care organizations.

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at www.ecolab.com.

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