

Are you using the right keyboard today?

The typical first question when talking with hospitals looking for keyboards is always centered around the keyboard being washable. When asked if the keyboards are ever washed the standard response is no. The reason for this is that the keyboard would have to be taken out of service, put in a special dishwasher and there is no policy in place to do this. In addition, it would require having replacement keyboards to put in place of the keyboard being removed. Also not a very good option. Some hospitals opt to go with covers. Covers over time crack, yellow and in general make it very difficult to type on.

Did you know your keyboard looks like this?

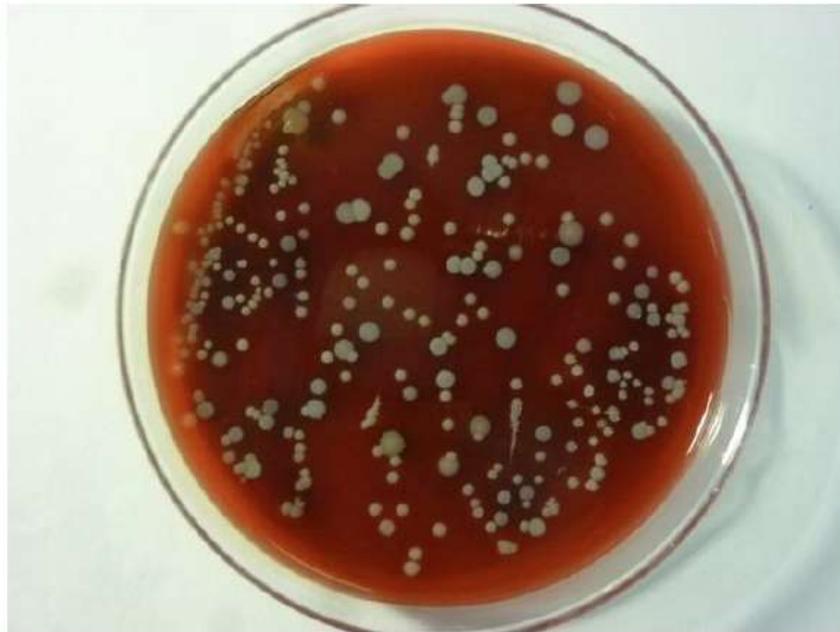
The problem is that since it is difficult to clean the keyboard while in service....the result is that it simply does not get cleaned. In fact all studies show that the typical keyboard is dirtier than a toilet seat. A toilet seat gets cleaned at least a few times a day. So how dirty? This is a picture of a personal keyboard.....



Keyboard

4 keys plus spacebar

But this is from a WOW station in a patient's room at a hospital....



Keyboard

4 keys plus spacebar, from WOW in a patient's room

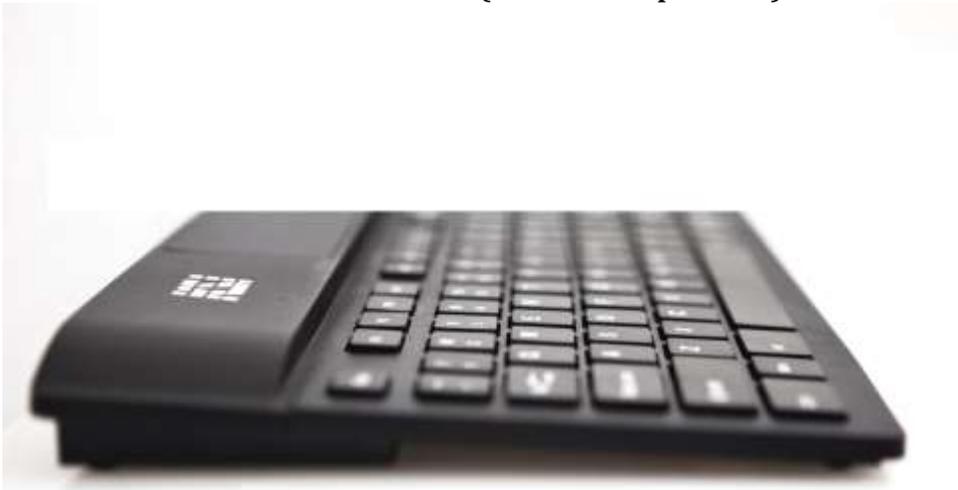
What is quite important to note is that the keyboard no matter if it is washable, has a cover, etc...without someone taking the time to clean the surface of the keyboard on regular basis...the results will always be the same. A contamination nightmare! And these are no regular bugs! These are the worst of the worst. C-Difficile, MRSA, Norovirus, HIV. The keyboard becomes the culprit in a cross contamination disaster.

What can be done to solve this?

So KSI (Key Source International) has developed the San-A-Key system. This system is comprised of three components. First the keyboard is designed with cleaning in mind. The new flat style keyboard does not allow hidden locations for the bacteria to hide. The keys, while providing a familiar tactile feedback also allows the keyboard to be wiped free of debris. The old style keyboards have peaks and valleys that are very difficult to keep clean (see below picture).



While the KSI Keyboard is flat and allows debris to be easily wiped away and cleans the whole surface (see below picture).



Second, the keyboard was designed with a very simple to use cleaning button. The problem with keeping the keyboard clean, is that the Nurse or Doctors are with the patient and in the record when the keyboard needs to be wiped down. However, if this were done without unplugging the keyboard or exiting/locking the workstation, the user would end up deleting important information or documents or even worse putting erroneous information in the medical record. The KSI-1700 SX series fixes this by automatically disabling the keyboard so the keyboard can be properly cleaned. Better yet, when the keyboard detects the cleaning process is finished, it resets itself.



Third, and the most critical part of the equation. Knowing that the keyboard has been cleaned. Until now, there was no way to know that someone had taken the time to clean the keyboard. At least not in an easy way. KSI has developed as a part of the San-a-Key System the ability to audit the process. Available in Q3 2014. This software will track the process per workstation and even allow for advanced features like push notification. For example, a popup in the system tray, that the keyboard has not been cleaned in the last 7 days, please take the time to clean the keyboard. This combined with the advanced features of the keyboard like biometrics and proximity, make this the safest and most secure device in the industry. To learn more about this and implement this in your facility, please visit www.ksikeyboards.com

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