

O'Connor Hospital Acquires State-of-the-Art Ultraviolet Light Technology to Intensify Disinfection Practices

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Delhi – O'Connor Hospital (OCH), part of Bassett Healthcare Network, has acquired ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection technology to supplement its methods for sanitizing clinical areas. The portable lamp, which uses UV light to kill bacteria, will intensify OCH's sterilization protocols and increase efficiency for staff.

Timothy Whitaker, MD, vice president of Medical Affairs for the southern division of Bassett Healthcare Network, says that this heightened infection prevention technology is part of the network's unending quest to further enhance patient care standards. "OCH is proud of its historically low infection rates," says Whitaker. "This UV equipment will supplement OCH's current sterilization procedures and further reinforce patient safety in all clinical areas, including its procedure rooms, inpatient floors, and Emergency Department."

UV light kills microorganisms by disrupting their cell membranes and damaging their DNA, stifling their ability to reproduce and live. The application of UV light to kill bacteria, viruses, mold and other pathogens has been used in water, food and air purification for years and has been gaining popularity in the medical environment.

"UV light application is becoming more widely recognized as an efficient and effective method for disinfection," explains Russ Grant, director of Infection Control and Prevention for Bassett Healthcare Network. "The benefits of this technology are yielding concrete results in research. Innovative approaches to infection control measures are especially crucial as we continue to navigate a world with COVID-19."

UV light therapy will not replace any of OCH's sterilization procedures in place; rather, it will be an added disinfection measure. "Staff will operate the UV light technology in addition to regular sterilization practices," says Grant.

“We are excited to announce the launch of this technology and are only beginning to see the benefits it has to offer,” says Whitaker. “OCH is committed to providing the safest and most advanced care possible for our patients and communities.”

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About O’Connor Hospital

O’Connor Hospital, part of the Bassett Healthcare Network, is certified as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) and provides acute inpatient medical care, emergency care, short-stay inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, many specialty services and diagnostic testing. The mission of O’Connor Hospital is to provide quality health care which the community values in the pursuit of health.

About Bassett Healthcare Network

Bassett Healthcare Network is an integrated health system that provides care and services to people living in a 5,600 square mile region in upstate New York. The organization includes five corporately affiliated hospitals, over two dozen community-based health centers, more than 20 school-based health centers, two skilled nursing facilities, and other health partners in related fields. To learn more about services available throughout the Bassett Healthcare Network, visit www.bassett.org. Follow Bassett on Facebook at facebook.com/Bassett.Network.