

Treasure Hunt Activity

Infection preventionists are incorporating games and contests in educational initiatives in their facilities. A Treasure Hunt activity is one method to increase staff engagement and awareness in infection prevention and control activities. Staff are asked to hunt for “treasure” such as:

- Expired supplies
- PPE supplies in the isolation carts.
- Hand washing sinks have soap, water, and paper towels available.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are functioning and contain hand sanitizer.
- Disinfectant wipes/chemicals are located in designated areas.
- Sharps containers at or below the fill line.

If you decide to host this activity in your facility, you can customize the example contest description to notify your staff of the following:

- Focus of the treasure hunt, e.g., expired supplies, sharps containers, etc.
- The day and time, or day range of the event.
- Who will be participating.
- Respective point person for their unit or department (for questions and to submit their respective treasures).
- Prizes or recognition for the winner.
- Method and timeframe for announcement of the winner.

You may want to give some thought as to how this impacts your organization or facility, e.g., regulatory requirements, negative patient outcomes, etc. and include as part of the discussion during the award ceremony. Additionally, it's important staff understand the rationale for ensuring medical supplies are within manufacturer's recommended date of use, sharps containers are at or below the fill line, etc.

You are invited to a treasure hunt!

Search *your* department or area for expired patient supplies! (Therapy Services, Environmental Services, etc. may search where they routinely work)

Prizes will be awarded to whoever finds the **OLDEST** and the **MOST** expired supplies!

Be sure to hand any expired “treasures” to your department point person by [day of week], [date] so you can get credit for your find! **Hints:** Look for items in areas where there are known “stashes” and ancillary locations (i.e., outside of regular clean storage rooms). Also look at items with a short shelf-life, including bleach wipes and laboratory tubes.

Reminder: Don't confuse the expiration date with the date of manufacture.

Department point persons: [list units in facility][list persons here]

