

## AUTOMATING FLOOR CLEANING

Healthcare facilities nowadays have to go through dramatic shift to meet the needs of customers within fast-paced environment. Many technologies have been applied to many different areas. Patients can ensure their comfort and safety thanks to the supply of high-tech equipment, although the operating theatres are still being cleaned just with 3,000-years-old mop and bucket – the same method that has been used to clean pyramids during the dynastic period. How much have we been efficient in solving problems revolve around building hygiene and the work flow?

Perhaps it is time to automate the floor cleaning process. Just like any other innovations, the real efficiency of robotic floor cleaning machines is ready to move forward.

“We have spoken to some of our existing customers in healthcare facilities that have raised different facility challenges ranging from operation management, time-efficiency, to quality management system,” said Murray McDonald, Director of Duplex Healthcare, “today a fleet of intelligent cleaner can carry out corridor cleaning at midnight in low traffic times.”

### IMPROVEMENT AND CONSISTENCY ON QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY

We know that it is critical to focus on quality and efficiency, particularly in healthcare cleaning system where infection control is well-regulated and monitored. However, there are always flaws in manual system. Perhaps your cleaners did not deliver good quality of cleaning, or the tools are not supportive enough to help them maintaining 100% of cleanliness. There is just no consistency in the quality. Automating the process means you are setting up a quality system that will stay the same until you decide to change it. It will manage and monitor the floor cleaning quality in your healthcare facility on a daily basis through app evaluation tool.

### REDUCE MANUAL HANDLING RISK

“Repetitive activities of lifting, pushing, pulling, moving, holding, or carrying have created many negative impact on workforce,” added McDonald, “in fact, 28% injuries come from manual handling. It is time for a great step up to automation.”

Manual handling and chemical use have their own history of creating dangers and injuries for cleaners. Although not all of the activities are dangerous, changing the cleaning system or simply removing manual handling work within healthcare facilities will give significant changes to increase safety within the healthcare building environment.

### CORDLESS SYSTEMS

Cordless systems have been winning over wired tools for a period of time. It helps to reduce the risk of danger caused by wires as well as increase flexibility for cleaning process. Automating the process means having cordless systems that are safe for everyone, not only the employees but also patients. Cordless systems mean it can go clean anytime, anywhere you want.

### IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME

Wireless tools and chemical-free cleaning systems are not new. Automation, too, has been around for decades, especially in America and Europe.

Duplex Healthcare has been leveraging the standard of cleaning within healthcare facilities for the last 20 years. Creating wide range of innovations that are not just about cleaning and infection control, but also doing it right. This includes the application of eco-friendly concept and its constant attention towards manual handling risk reduction.

These days, the company is focusing on developing automations in cleaning system through the use of optical sensors and navigational mapping system.

“It is important to use versatile machine that can be applied for more than one function to save time and money,” said McDonald, “we are now focusing on creating machines that can be used autonomously for many areas and produce better results for healthcare facilities.”

Its latest product, Lithium Evolve, was produced with lightweight lithium battery and cordless design that can sweep, wash, scrub, and dry floors in single pass with 40% better cleaning performance. Their robotic tools too are expected to kick off soon as a multi purpose cleaning machine.

“In the future, people should focus more on automating the process. The development of floor robots is not just for fun nor a threat to substitute human workers – people can do more complex task and work hand in hand with robots, producing better results in no time,” said McDonald.

