

## Mobile Medical Equipment

Have you ever wondered how substantial the role of mobile equipment may be in the transmission of infections? A recent study published in the August issue of CHEST reveals that poor infection control practices when using X-ray machines may lead to nosocomial infections in the intensive care unit (ICU).

The study was conducted in three phases: observation, intervention and follow-up. Adequate infection control was practiced during 1 percent of observation X-rays, 42 percent of intervention X-rays and 10 percent of follow-up X-rays. The study also showed that cultures of the X-ray machine surfaces yielded resistant gram-negative bacteria on 39 percent of the observation, 0 percent of the intervention and 50 percent of the follow-up X-rays.

The authors conclude that improved infection control practices could decrease the occurrence of resistant organisms on X-ray equipment.

(CHEST August 2009 136:426-432)