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## **£1m Intensive Care Unit Installs Copper Surfaces to Combat Healthcare Associated Infections**

A £1 million, eight-bed intensive care unit specially designed with cutting-edge infection prevention measures has just opened in Manchester, taking advantage of copper's antimicrobial efficacy for touch surfaces.

Door furniture in all clinical areas and work surfaces used for the preparation of medication have been made from copper, the most effective touch surface material, proven to continuously kill the deadly microbes that cause healthcare associated infections, 24/7.

The facility is the latest embodiment of Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust's commitment to an outstanding record on healthcare associated infections. Dr John Barnes, lead consultant in intensive care and consultant anaesthetist, explained that the new unit "will provide a modern, patient-centred service and care to our most critically-ill patients, using the latest innovations in infection prevention and control."

For more information about copper's antimicrobial properties, and case studies of healthcare facilities around the world taking advantage of it, visit [www.antimicrobialcopper.com](http://www.antimicrobialcopper.com).

### **Editor's Note**

The ability of antimicrobial copper surfaces to effectively kill antibiotic-resistant organisms that can cause healthcare associated infections is the topic of a presentation at the first International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control, organised by the World Health Organization and to be held in Geneva from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

"Copper Surfaces in the ICU Reduced the Relative Risk of Acquiring an Infection While Hospitalized" will be presented by Dr Michael Schmidt during the 'Innovative Approaches to Infection Control' session on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 13:00.

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