

FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT PATIENT SAFETY

At Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center

When Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center of Danville, KY, first evaluated Xenex Germ-Zapping™ Robots, they were already recognized by Joint Commission as a Top Performing Hospital, one of only five hospitals nationwide to receive the NOVA Award for innovation in managing population health, and recognized by Becker Hospital Review as one of the 100 Great Community Hospitals in America. Danville and Ephraim are known for being “first” in many things, and being the first public hospital in Kentucky to add Xenex to their cleaning protocols felt like the right thing to do for their community.

They also took a novel approach to capitalizing their purchase, working with their hospital’s Health Care Foundation to secure a gift that covered the cost of their Robot. It’s an approach that is worth exploring, as most hospitals are supported by auxiliaries, foundations, and other charitable organizations for the purpose of providing resources above the capital budget.

At Ephraim McDowell, the Health Care Foundation has assisted with the acquisition of wellness center exercise bikes, advanced RN certification, and breast biopsy equipment. When the opportunity came to bring Xenex to their facility, Vicki A. Darnell, CEO, says, “We saw Xenex as a great partnership in our quest for excellent infection prevention.”

Their foundation board is partnered with the hospital board, and employs a written process for petitioning funds. The process includes explaining the requested gift and its benefits to patients or staff, an application first screened by the senior leadership team with hospital directors as to whether it fits the mission of the hospital.

The Foundation process also analyzes how each applicant meets their annual gift, and the full Foundation board votes on the executive board’s recommendation.

“Ephraim McDowell Health Care Foundation has given our healthcare system, and therefore our community, about \$1.9 million back, making some really significant investments in the community.”

To determine if your hospital’s charitable organizations can assist with procurement of innovative tools to improve patient safety, speak to your director and explore other gifts they have made. At several hospitals nationwide, volunteer groups, foundations, and other support networks have made possible the addition of Xenex Germ-Zapping Robots to improve patient safety.

“It really fit into our mission to provide a healing environment, and to co-market what we were already doing to reduce incidence of HAIs.” - Vicki A. Darnell, CEO

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