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# Roberto del Rio Children's Hospital, Santiago, Chile

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## Protecting Children with Antimicrobial Copper

Roberto del Rio Children's Hospital – the oldest paediatric facility in Chile installed antimicrobial copper surfaces in its intensive care and treatment rooms to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections.

The initiative was developed in conjunction with the Chilean Ministry of Health, and aims to revolutionise hospital hygiene standards using surfaces that have been shown to continuously reduce microbial contamination by greater than 90%. The installation was a first for Latin America, following a growing number of installations in Europe, Asia and North America.

'This initiative will benefit children who are hospitalised in critical conditions as they will be in a healthier environment,' explained Doctor Ignacio Hernandez, Director of Roberto del Rio.

Surfaces upgraded to antimicrobial copper include bed rails, trolleys, taps, hand rails and door furniture. All products bear the Cu<sup>+</sup> mark, certifying that all the copper alloys used benefit from copper's inherent ability to rapidly kill bacteria, viruses and fungi 24/7, in between regular cleans.

Doctor Michael Schmidt, leader of the three-centre US trial, from which initial data shows a greater than 40% reduction in a patient's risk of acquiring a healthcare-associated infection when staying in a room containing antimicrobial copper surfaces, has said of Roberto del Rio: 'These are among the best public facilities using antimicrobial copper I've seen. I hope this initiative will be replicated by many health services around the world.'



ICU with extensive antimicrobial copper installation