

Baystate Health System turns to safer, cost-effective pest control

Since Baystate Health System in Western Massachusetts implemented an in-house integrated pest management (IPM) program in April 2003, it has learned that hiring one individual to focus on an issue leads to an effective, cost efficient and safer program for patients, communities and staff.

The IPM coordinator educates department heads, physicians and nurses in the hospital system's three facilities in order to help them understand IPM and its goal of prevention rather than treatment. Integrated Pest Management only employs toxic chemicals as a last resort and is a long-term program to inspect, prevent, monitor and educate to reduce the need for killing pests.

Note: This article originally appeared in the January 2006 issue of the *GreenLink* newsletter. Check back soon for additional details on this success story.

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