

PRESS RELEASE

Vesismín creates pioneering programme with comprehensive approach to hospital infections

- Vesismín offers hospitals and health centres Vesismín Services, the first comprehensive programme to provide a global, personalised approach to preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).
- The main difference with this pioneering project is that it provides a precise, reliable, and confidential digital diagnosis of the extent to which the various departments of hospitals and health centres comply with the infection control and prevention protocols, plus a plan for improvement and follow-up.
- Vesismín is currently implementing a pilot version in two Spanish hospitals and the Spanish Society of Preventive Medicine and Public Health is considering its use.
- The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) estimates that there are 3,8 million healthcare-associated infections a year in hospitals and long-term care centres in Europe and that over half of HAIs are preventable. These infections add 16 million extra days of hospital stays in the EU.
- The Vesismín Health project was started in 2004 by Víctor Vallés as a knowledge-transfer project based on a patent purchased and research and development carried out with support from the IQS university center. Since then, the company's main goal has been to collaborate with health centres in their fight to cut HAI by providing innovative solutions.

Barcelona, 7 June 2022. [Vesismín Health](#), based at the [Barcelona Science Park](#) and specialising in R&D and commercialising innovative solutions to control infections in hospital settings, has created [Vesismín Services](#), the first comprehensive programme to provide guidance for professionals at hospitals and health centres in assessing protocols and practices for preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

The innovation of this pioneering project lies in its comprehensive guidance service with a global approach that facilitates traceability of all procedures that pose an HAI risk, providing a precise, personalised diagnosis of compliance levels of each department at healthcare centres, plus a plan for improvement and follow-up.

"In recent years, many measures have been implemented to prevent, reduce, and control HAI: training, protocols, one-off interventions, but most are isolated measures. In Spain, and I would even dare say in Europe (except the United Kingdom and Germany), there is no prevention and control programme for healthcare-associated infections with a comprehensive approach like ours," explains Vesismín CEO Víctor Vallés.

Comprehensive approach to HAIs

Vesismin Services provides **personalised, precise, reliable, and confidential guidance for all areas of hospitals and health centres**: ICU, A&E, environmental biosecurity, hazardous waste management, cleaning services, surgical units, transplant units, haemodialysis, dialysis, oncology, etc. **The programme has four different services: assessment, diagnosis, implementation of the improvement plan, and monitoring and follow-up**, each of which can be commissioned separately.

Based on the final points awarded, calculated automatically after the authorised staff fill in a series of online questionnaires that are personalised and specific to each department to **assess** the level of compliance with procedures and protocols to control infections, the team at Vesismin Services carries out an objective **diagnosis** and determines what needs improvement to better prevent HAI in each area.

After this in-depth study of the results, the same experts draft a fully personalised **improvement plan** for the areas that need it. Then, they design the protocols and documents needed to support the procedures currently in use and propose a continuous training programme to implement advanced solutions.

Finally, in order to ensure proper compliance with the improvement plan suggested, they offer **monitoring and follow-up** service that includes reviewing the protocols and documents, the option for self-diagnosis of real compliance with the HAI prevention measures, availability of latest generation tools and products that facilitate the practices and measures used, and a quality certificate once the services are fully implemented, helping optimise indicators for gaining **ISO, EFQM, J JCI-FADA, etc. certifications**.

Vesismin Services is the result of a large experience and expertise in Spain and overseas **over more than 19 years of helping to prevent healthcare-associated infections**. The company also worked with very prestigious healthcare professionals who are experts in preventive medicine and controlling infection in this programme.

“It is a strategic service that helps improving practices and protocols in this field, reducing the risk of stress among healthcare professionals and the socio-economic costs of HAI, boosting the reputation and functional capacity of the centre and, in short, helping strike a balance between patient safety and the sustainability of the measures used,” explains **Víctor Vallés**.

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HAIs in figures

Healthcare-associated infections are an important public health issue. According to the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#), **one in fifteen hospital patients in Europe get an HAI**; and, in hospitals alone, HAI cause more deaths in Europe than any other infectious disease monitored by the ECDC.

This EU agency also estimates there are roughly **3.8 million healthcare-associated infections** in hospitals and long-term care centres in Europe each year. And, according to the ECDC, more than half of HAI are preventable.

In Spain, according to the latest [report](#) on the prevalence of HAI published by the ISCIII National Epidemiological Surveillance Network (RENAVE), approximately 7% of all hospital patients in this country in 2018 and 2019 contracted an infection while in hospital, above the European average of 5.7%.

IRAs also contributes to a significant increase in healthcare costs, generating an extra **16 million days of hospital stay in Europe** and approximately **€ 7 trillion in direct costs**, according to the [latest report](#) of the Patient Safety Strategy of the National Health System.

■ About Vesimin Health

Vesimin Health was founded in Barcelona in 2004 as a project within the **IQS** university center by entrepreneur Víctor Vallés. Since then, the company's main goal is the close collaboration with healthcare centres in their fight to face HAI by providing effective, innovative disinfection solutions.

Among other challenges achieved, Vesimin Health was a pioneer in introducing and changing the habits of healthcare professionals regarding single-use wipes, both for disinfecting skin and instruments, making disinfection easier and more hygienic. The company was also the first laboratory to formulate and launch orange chlorhexidines, in 2012, as an alternative to povidone-iodine to facilitate antiseptics of the surgical field and reduce infections.

The company has seen double-digit growth, with average annual growth (CAGR) of 27% for the past 5 years. Its turnover for 2021 was nearly €12 million, 30% of which was from exports to 45 countries, including France, Poland, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Romania, and the Dominican Republic, among others. They also kicked off a plan to attract talent, which increased their team by 29%. The company is currently present at over 400 hospitals in Spain and expanding into other markets, like pharmaceuticals and veterinary.

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