



## CASE STUDY – PALLIATIVE CARE

### CONTEXT

Palliative Care in its last stages can be confronting for patients, their relatives, and nursing staff.

### PROBLEM

Imagine a loved one suffering from mouth cancer. In the final stages of their life. Wanting the comfort of their loved ones being present.

But, there is an overload of bacteria in their mouth. This is accompanied by a foul odor that is finding its way into every surface in their palliative care room.

So offensive was the bacterial odor that the nursing and medical staff felt very uncomfortable when attending to their patient. They had expressed their level of discomfort to the Director of Nursing (DoN) of the palliative care unit. They sensed even a degree of reluctance by their staff to enter the patient's room.

Sadly, the patient's family found the odor too difficult to deal with and they had stopped visiting their loved one.

The housekeeping team at the palliative care unit had tried many different approaches to reducing the odor. But, with little effect. The odor had permeated the furnishings, drapes, and bedding in the patient's room.

### SOLUTION

The DoN contacted Airandé's manager in Belgium to learn if they might have an answer.

Our Manager suggested the short-term use of a ReSPR FLEX unit to remove the odor and to help purify the air and surfaces within the patient's room. Some relief was achieved through a reduction of odor within 24-hours.

The DoN was not satisfied that the FLEX was going to quickly and totally remove the odor. They were convinced to leave the unit running for 12 more hours.

### OUTCOME

After 36 hours, the odor was totally removed from the room and its fabric. Testing of the air and surfaces revealed the reduction of bacteria there by 99.99%. The patient had not been cured of their bacterial load – but the discomforting unpleasantness of the foul odor has disappeared. The nursing and medical staff applied appropriate methods of end-of-life oral care to reduce the patient's halitosis.



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Most important, the patient’s family were able to comfortably resume their visits to their loved one with no risk of being confronted by foul odor. And be with them in their last days.

### CONCLUSION

The NCC Technology used in the ReSPR FLEX unit lived up to its promise of removing the foul odor from the room. Its effectiveness in doing so was due to its dual capabilities of purifying the air and also the surfaces on which the bacterial load had settled.



**ReSPR FLEX with NCC Technology**