Think twice about single use equipment







Dr Rachel Drayton C&VUHB
Dr Cat Stace ABUHB
Meg Overbury C&VUHB
Dr Liv Clarke C&VUHB







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Problem Statement

• Single-use equipment used in medical procedures results in increased greenhouse gas emissions and high levels of waste production, which is detrimental to the environment, human health and wellbeing.

Aim Statement

 To reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the use of instruments in medical procedures by 15 tonnes CO²e by November 2028

Achievements (the wind in our sails)

- Switch to reusable metal speculums in C&V sexual health in 2023
- Over 50% of vaginal examinations in C&V sexual health now using reusable speculums
 - Carbon saving approx. 1500kg CO²e per year
 - Patients are happy 81% prefer metal or no preference
 - Staff are happy 92% of those using them found as easy or easier to use
 - At least cost neutral (we think)



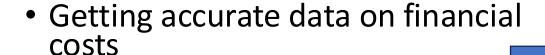
- Learnt from the challenges we encountered
 - More staff training and support was needed
 - Increase availability of metal speculums, including other sizes
 - Accurately measuring success usage data, carbon calculations, financial

Enablers (beacons on the horizon)

- Developing a "How to" guide to be used in other clinical areas
 - Already published article in the BMJ on this
 - Still learning to be done
- Increasing the roll out of speculums in C&VUHB sexual health
 - Devising better ways to motivate and demonstrate success
- Started exploring other areas who might want to adopt change
 - Engaging with staff in sexual health in ABUHB
- New clinical lead role in C&V
 - Networking opportunities
- Carbon calculator tools available

Barriers (what is making this difficult for us?)

- Understanding systems and barriers:
 - Procurement processes
 - Sterilisation services
 - Infection control requirements



- Engaging other areas to adopt change
- Upfront cost of purchasing

What we need to progress

- Engagement for relevant areas in UHBs
 - Procurement
 - Decontamination services
 - IP&C
- Help with establish financial costs and benefits e.g
 - Incineration
 - Waste management

