

Think twice about single use equipment

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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
- Getting accurate data on financial costs
- 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
- Support for areas who want to pilot the “How to” guide