



### Healthier Hospitals Solutions

Healthier Hospitals is challenging hospitals to meet the baseline objective and take on three measurable goals to help hospitals protect people from harmful chemicals. These goals have been selected for their positive impact on human health and the environment, as well as to drive increased demand for healthier products in the marketplace. In the absence of environmental standards for many medical products, Healthier Hospitals is collaborating with hospitals to identify and evaluate environmental considerations.

| Objective  | Impact   |
|--|--|
| Review and reformulate surgical kit to remove unnecessary materials                      | Eliminate waste and reduce health system supply costs  |
| Collect and purchase reprocessed pulse oximeters and compression therapy devices         | Safely reuse medical devices and prevent medical waste from entering landfills   |
| Specify, purchase and report expenditures on greener electronics (registered with EPEAT) | Lower energy use, virgin material use, greenhouse gas emissions, toxic materials disposal, hazardous waste generation and solid waste generation |

Health systems will be recognized for achieving ranks of Level One, Level Two and Level Three by completing the three goals in the order of their choice.

### Why Should Hospitals Take on this Challenge?

By selecting products with reduced environmental impact on human health and the environment, hospitals can have a positive effect on the community while reducing the amount they spend on waste disposal, regulatory compliance, safety issues and equipment maintenance. Although hospitals want to use products that are healthy and sustainable, the process of evaluating whether a particular product or service is environmentally preferable can be complex. Preferable products can be recyclable, contain recycled content, emit fewer volatile organic chemicals or contain safer chemicals. The tools Healthier Hospitals provides will enable and empower hospitals to make purchasing decisions that are cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

## Why Smarter Purchasing?

The health care industry wields significant purchasing power, representing 17 percent of the U.S. marketplace. However, some of the products marketed to the industry generate unnecessary waste, contain hazardous materials and use excessive energy. By choosing environmentally preferred medical products and equipment for use in hospital facilities, the health care sector can actually generate demand for inherently healthier and safer products and services for patients, workers and the environment. The availability of these products for the health care sector will translate into growing availability and subsequent adoption of smarter products in other industries or individual consumer purchasing.

## Success Stories

**Kaiser Permanente** has been able to convert to Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) registered devices that are cost neutral and result in saving \$5 million in energy costs each year.

**Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)** has saved \$17,600,000 in 2010 and \$21,700,000 in 2011 through the reprocessing of single-

use devices. The waste stream was reduced by 296 tons in 2010 and by 364 tons in 2011.

**Virginia Mason** has reduced purchasing costs by over **\$3 million dollars** since 2012 through single-use device reprocessing. Annual waste disposal costs were also reduced, and eliminating waste disposal reduces toxins potentially released to the environment.

## Get Started

Register today to enroll in Healthier Hospitals, which is free to any hospital in the United States and Canada. To get started, visit [www.healthierhospitals.org](http://www.healthierhospitals.org) and choose one or more Challenges. Enrollees are invited to commit to at least one of the six “Challenge” areas: Engaged Leadership, Healthier Food, Leaner Energy, Less Waste, Safer Chemicals and Smarter Purchasing. Hospitals can choose to tackle a single Challenge or any combination of the six Challenges. By signing up, health systems will gain access to free tools and resources such as how-to

implementation guides, webinars and a network of peers. Through the Healthier Hospitals program, hospitals will track progress at the local level and share data to show the measurable impact of the project. Visit the HH website to learn more about the Challenges and the resources available to help participating health systems achieve these goals.

Questions? Ask us at [info@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:info@practicegreenhealth.org). Or follow us on Twitter at [@HHIorg](https://twitter.com/HHIorg) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/healthierhospitalsinitiative](http://www.facebook.com/healthierhospitalsinitiative).