

Chemicals Management Programs in Health Care

Tracey Easthope, MPH, Ecology Center

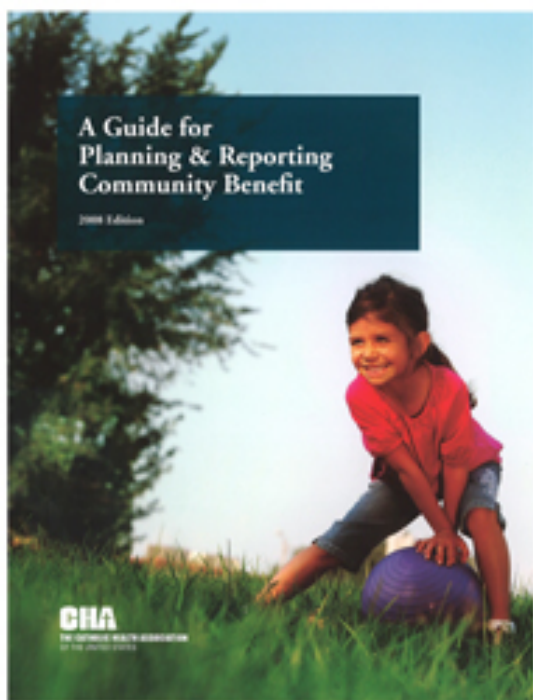
Chemical Use in Health Care – WHAT HEALTH CARE DOES MATTERS

- Health care sector spends over **\$106 billion** on chemicals and chemical products every year. (includes pharmaceuticals)
 - \$35 billion in direct expenditures
- Health care sector accounts for about **one third** of chemicals and chemical products purchased by top 16 industrial sectors (the 2nd largest)
 - spending more than the agricultural sector on direct purchases of chemicals



“Kaiser Permanente’s mission is to improve the health of our members and communities we serve. **We can’t do that without helping to address environmental contributors to disease.**

We work on safer chemicals, climate action and sustainable food in order to prevent cancer, new infectious diseases, diabetes and other conditions linked to pollution.” *Kathy Gerwig, VP, Environmental Stewardship Officer*





1996

Memorandum of Understanding between the American Hospital Association & the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1998

On June 24, 1998, a landmark agreement was put together by the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) set new goals for hospital pollution prevention over the next five years, and brought together a stakeholders' council to enforce the provisions of the MOU. Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) was an active participant in the preparation of the agreement, and sat on the AHA Leadership Council.

The MOU set 10 action steps for the council to focus on over a five-year period. Two of the top priorities are the virtual elimination of mercury-containing waste from the hospital waste stream by the year 2005, and the goal of achieving a thirty-three percent (33%) reduction in total waste volume in all hospitals by 2005 and an overall goal of achieving a fifty percent (50%) reduction by 2010.

The ten points of the plan are as follows:

1. Virtual Elimination of Mercury Waste.
2. Total Waste Volume Reduction.
3. Seminars.
4. Software Distribution.
5. Industry P2 Information.
6. Review of Industry P2 Information.
7. Chemical Waste Minimization.
8. Ethylene Oxide and PBT Pollutant

Nurses Association (ANA). An H2E listserve has been developed. Join the H2E listserv to share and learn technical information, find educational tools and identify practical strategies for mercury elimination and discuss other pollution prevention and waste minimization issues. For information on how to become an active participant in the H2E process, see their website at www.h2e-online.org.

The Memorandum

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made between the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic substances ("OPPT"), U.S. EPA Region 5 and the American Hospital Association ("AHA"). Throughout this MOU, any reference to "U.S. EPA" shall include both OPPT and Region 5 and any reference to "AHA" shall refer to AHA and its Personal Membership Groups ("PMGs"). U.S. EPA and AHA are referred to herein as "the Parties" to this MOU.

1.1 The Parties intend by this MOU to establish a mutually beneficial public/private partnership.

1.2 This MOU will address the basic relationship, roles and responsibilities of the Parties but leaves for later agreement the more precise terms that will constitute the substance of the rest

2007

Guide to Choosing Safer Products and Chemicals

Implementing
Chemicals Policy
in Health Care





The Business-NGO Working Group promotes the creation and adoption of safer chemicals and sustainable materials in a way that supports market transitions to a healthy economy, healthy environment, and healthy people.

2009

BizNGO Endorsers

Businesses

American Sustainable Business Council
Brooks Sports
Construction Specialties, Inc.
Earthbound Farm
Green Harvest Technologies
Hewlett-Packard
Hospira
IHIS
Method
Naturepedic
Organic Valley
Perkins+Will
Pure Strategies
Q Collection
Seventh Generation
Staples, Inc.
Sustainable Research Group
True Textiles, Inc.
Whole Foods

Health Care Organizations

Catholic Healthcare West
Health Care Without Harm
Kaiser Permanente
Novation
Practice Greenhealth
Premier

NGOs and Investors

As You Sow
Basel Action Network
Boston Common Asset Management, LLC
Breast Cancer Fund
Center for Environmental Health
ChemSec
Clean New York
Clean Production Action
Clean Water Action
Commonweal
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Ecology Center
Electronics Take Back Coalition
Environmental Health Fund
Environmental Health Strategy Center
General Council, Adrian Dominican Sisters
Healthy Building Network
Innance Investment Management Inc.
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Mercy Investment Program
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
Sisters of Mercy, Regional Community of Detroit Charitable Trust
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Washington Toxics Coalition
Women's Voices for the Earth

Principles for Safer Chemicals

Demand for products made from greener chemicals is growing rapidly. Consumers, investors and governments want chemicals that have low to no toxicity and degrade into innocuous substances in the environment.¹ Leading businesses are seeking to capture these emerging market opportunities by redesigning their products and catalyzing change in their supply chains.

To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are healthy for humans, as well as for our global environment and its non-human inhabitants, responsible companies and their supply chains should adopt and implement the following four principles for safer chemicals:

1. Know and disclose product chemistry. Manufacturers will identify the substances associated with and used in a product across its lifecycle and will increase as appropriate the transparency of the chemical constituents in their products, including the public disclosure of chemicals of high concern.² Buyers will request product chemistry data from their suppliers.

2. Assess and avoid hazards. Manufacturers will determine the hazard characteristics of chemical constituents and formulations in their products, use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals. Buyers will work with their suppliers to achieve this principle.

3. Commit to continuous improvement. Establish corporate governance structures, policies and practices that create a framework for the regular review of product and process chemistry, and that promote the use of chemicals, processes, and products with inherently lower hazard potential.

4. Support public policies and industry standards that: advance the implementation of the above three principles, ensure that comprehensive hazard data are available for chemicals on the market, take action to eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

These principles are key features of an effective strategy for promoting, developing and using chemicals that are environmentally preferable across their entire lifecycle.

1. These are two of the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry defined by Paul Anastas and John Warner in: *Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice*, 1999 (Oxford University Press: New York).

2. "Chemicals of high concern" include substances that have the following properties: 1) persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT); 2) very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB); 3) very persistent and toxic (vPT); 4) very bioaccumulative and toxic (vBt); 5) carcinogenic; 6) mutagenic; 7) reproductive or developmental toxicant; 8) endocrine disruptor; or 9) neurotoxicant. "Toxic" (T) includes both human toxicity and ecotoxicity.

For further information, contact Mark Rossi, Chair, Business-NGO Working Group
www.bizngo.org • Mark@CleanProduction.org • 781.391.6743



Kaiser Permanente: \$14 Billion Products/Services



Using Safer Chemicals in Products Supports Preventive Health Care



At Kaiser Permanente we understand that healthy communities and a healthy environment are critical to the health and wellness of every person. Since our founding in 1945 we have worked to curb our impact on the environment by using safer chemicals, building greener hospitals, reducing waste, purchasing locally grown food and using sustainable energy.

Our commitment to preventive health care leads us to be concerned with the use of toxic chemicals in products. We strive to purchase products that do not contain persistent bioaccumulation

or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), carcinogens like formaldehyde or reproductive toxicants like di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP). To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are not harmful for humans as well as for our environment, Kaiser Permanente adopted the following five guiding principles for managing chemicals in products:

1. Understand product chemistry. To increase the transparency of the chemical constituents in products we buy, we request product chemistry data

2. Assess and avoid hazards. We have and will continue to encourage suppliers to use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, eliminate chemicals of high concern, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals.
3. Commit to continuous improvement. We have created a framework for the review of product and process chemistry, and are promoting the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential.
4. Support industry standards that, in Kaiser Permanente's opinion, eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

Kaiser Permanente is the nation's largest integrated health care delivery program. We:

- Are a non-profit organization with \$40 billion in annual revenues.
- Spend \$14 billion annually on products and services.
- Employ 167,000 staff and 14,600 physicians.



May 4, 2010

Kaiser Permanente Unveils Sustainability Scorecard for Medical Products

SKU-level questions:	Desired Answer
NICU Product?	
PICU Product?	
Latex-free?	Yes
Lead, Mercury, Hexavalent chromium, Polybrominated biphenyls, Polybrominated diphenyl ether, <1,000ppm or Cadmium <100ppm	Yes
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)-free?	Yes
Diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) - free?	Yes
California Prop 65 Chemical <threshold or warning level	Yes
If yes to (A), List Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) #'s (separated by ",")	(fewest listed)
Product - Contain more than 10% post-consumer recycled content?	Yes
Primary Packaging - Contain more than 5% post-consumer recycled content?	Yes
Secondary Packaging - Contain more than 30% post-consumer recycled content?	Yes
Product - Designed for multi-use (i.e. not a single-use device) ?	Yes
Manufacturer's product code for environmentally preferable alt.	



Dignity Health (Catholic Healthcare West): 5th largest health system in the US



Healthy Chemicals, Healthy Patients— Why Health Care Needs Federal Chemicals Reform



By *Rachelle Wenger, Director,
Public Policy & Community Advocacy*

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) is a faith-based, mission-driven organization of nearly 60,000 physicians, employees and volunteers who daily deliver quality, compassionate care to communities across Arizona, California and Nevada. Our mission is to advocate for change, both within our industry and globally, that improves the quality of life. We continually ask ourselves and others how we can balance both moral and strategic issues in how we do business. Upholding the core values of dignity, justice, stewardship, collaboration and

in the future for their children and grandchildren.

To that end, CHW develops strategies for promoting, developing and using chemicals that are environmentally preferable across their entire lifecycles. CHW supports and engages in initiatives to disclose product chemistry; assess and avoid hazards; promote the use of chemicals, processes, and products with inherently lower hazard potential; and advocate for public policies and industry standards that advance a greener economy.

Reducing Toxicity of Products Used in Health Care

In chemical policy terms, Catholic

bioaccumulative toxics) for elimination. We create contractual obligations with manufacturers, suppliers and distributors to avoid identified chemicals of concern, disclose processes that use chemicals of concern even if the chemicals used in the processes are not a part of the end product and substitute safer alternatives identified through hazard analysis. We develop goals and metrics to measure our progress and evaluate our results, and share our successes and lessons learned with others.

Since 2001 our hospitals have been virtually mercury-free and we have instituted purchasing policies to ensure no new mercury is introduced. Our hospitals organized thermometer exchange programs in their communities to help remove this toxic substance from the waste stream.

In another major effort, CHW is reducing the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a plastic used in many medical devices. From premature babies to the elderly, hospital-

Catholic Healthcare West

- 8th largest hospital provider in the nation
- Largest hospital system in California
- Serving 22 million members
- \$9 billion in annual revenues
- 50,000 employees
- 9,754 physicians



Premier: \$36 Billion Annual Volume



Choosing Safer Products Helps Improve the Health of Communities



Choosing safer products helps improve the health of communities

The Premier healthcare alliance is committed to protecting the environment and maintaining a safe and healthy climate for patients, workers and communities. Premier and its members are leaders in the industry, setting the bar for environmentally preferable purchasing and healthcare practices and working to transform healthcare.

The alliance understands that the healthcare sector is the single largest user of chemicals. For example, it is estimated that healthcare spends over \$106 billion in direct purchases of chemicals and chemical products each year, more than double the amount spent by

products also have life cycle impacts, affecting workers who manufacture them and the communities that host manufacturing or disposal facilities.

The Premier Safety Institute® (www.premierinc.com/safety) provides comprehensive resources, including case studies, tools, measurement programs and management plans, to promote a healthy, safe and sustainable healthcare delivery environment for patients, workers and their communities. We partner with recognized environmental industry leaders, including Health Care Without Harm, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Practice Green-

Purchasing (EPP) program identifies environmentally friendly products, packaging and services. Premier's EPP program is a partnership between the Premier Safety Institute and the group purchasing program. In collaboration with our contracted suppliers and group purchasing contract teams and committees, Premier helps ensure the availability of environmentally friendly products and services for members.

Premier incorporates EPP guidelines when evaluating and awarding its group purchasing contracts and gives special consideration to suppliers that support

Premier Highlights

The Premier healthcare alliance operates a leading healthcare purchasing network.

- \$36 billion of annual contracting volume
- Contracts for:
 - 2,500+ hospitals
 - 73,000+ other healthcare sites
- Owned by hospitals, health systems and other providers
- Received "Champion for Change" award from Practice Greenhealth for nine consecutive years
- Early adopter of EPEAT criteria plus additional toxicity issues in procurement of environmentally friendly electronics in 2005
- Endorsed BizNGO Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy



Novation: \$40 Billion Purchasing Volume

Novation Chemical Policy Statement

Novation is committed to helping hospitals create an environment that is free from the hazards posed by chemicals that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. To that end, it has adopted a chemical policy statement to identify and address hazardous products contained in contracted products and to support the market for safer alternatives.

To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are healthy for humans as well as for our global environment and its non-human inhabitants, Novation urges responsible companies and their supply chains to adopt and implement the following four guiding principles (as developed by the Business-NGO working group on chemical policy reform):

1. Know and disclose product chemistry. Manufacturers will identify the substances associated with and used in a product across its lifecycle and will increase as appropriate the transparency of the chemical constituents in their products, including the public disclosure of chemical of high concern.¹
2. Assess and avoid hazards. Manufacturers will determine the hazard characteristics of chemical constituents and formulations in their products, use chemical with inherently low hazard potential, prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals. Buyers will work with their suppliers to achieve this principle.
3. Commit to continuous improvement. Manufacturers shall establish corporate governance structures, policies and practices that create a framework for the regular review of product and process chemistry. Buyers shall promote the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential.
4. Support public policies and industry standards. Manufacturers and buyers shall support public policies and industry standards that advance the implementation of the above three principles, assure that comprehensive hazard data are available for chemicals on the market, take action to eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

Standardized Environmental Disclosure Questions: \$135 Billion in Purchasing



Standardized Environmental Questions for Medical Products, Version 1.0

What we buy matters. By selectively choosing the medical products that enter hospital facilities, we can generate demand for inherently safer products and services for patients, workers, and the environment. Products should have a reduced impact on our natural resources, contain safer chemicals, and drive reductions in energy use. We strive for a healthy environment and to do no harm. Purchasing is an effective way for improving the environmental performance of health care products. By using a nationally recognized set of environmental criteria that are important to health care, we are helping to:

- **Encourage manufacturers and suppliers** to reduce the negative environmental and health impacts of their products and services across their lifecycle.
- **Establish a standard** for successfully purchasing environmentally preferable products, thereby encouraging other health care purchasers to adopt.
- **Provide a tool** for educating staff and others on the environmental priorities in health care.
- **Create safer and healthier environments** for our patients, healthcare workers and local and global communities.

Each question asks about a specific environmental attribute that, if considered independent of other attributes, may not necessarily define an environmentally preferable product. Rather, the need will be to evaluate multiple attributes of a product across its entire life cycle. It will also be important to look at other product-specific elements that go beyond these questions, such as source of feed stock, transportation, or additional chemicals of concern.

Standardized Environmental Disclosure Questions: Chemicals

Chemicals	6.	Is this product free of intentionally added polyvinyl chloride (PVC)? (Yes/No)	Yes	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) shall be defined as a plastic polymer used in a wide array of products. It is the third most widely produced plastic. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	Production and incineration of PVC releases dioxins and other harmful chemicals. Dioxins are widely distributed throughout the environment in low concentrations and are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT). Dioxins are potent toxicants with many health impacts even at low exposure levels.
	7.	Is this product free of intentionally added phthalates: DEHP, BBP, DnHP, DIDP, and DBP? (Yes/No) If no, please specify the phthalate(s)	Yes	Phthalates are esters of phthalic acid mainly used as plasticizers (substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity). They are used primarily to soften polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) CAS 117-81-7, Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP) CAS 85-68-7, Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DnHP) CAS 84-75-3, Di-isodecyl phthalate (DIDP) CAS 68515-49-1 or 26761-40-0, Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) CAS 84-74-2	People can be exposed through the use of products containing these chemicals. In 2002, the FDA issued a Public Health Notification for PVC devices containing DEHP. DEHP is also listed as a carcinogen on the Prop 65 list. The National Research Council has also noted the importance of looking at cumulative exposure from multiple phthalates. These five phthalates are listed as reproductive toxicants by Prop 65.
	8.	Is this product free of intentionally added Bisphenol A (BPA) or BPA derived plastics (such as polycarbonate plastic and resins)? (Yes/No)	Yes	Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, or Bisphenol A (BPA), is an organic compound used to make polycarbonate plastic, epoxy resins and for other applications. Polycarbonate plastic is derived from BPA. Resin derived from BPA is used to line metal food containers and in thermal paper for impact printing purposes. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	People can be exposed through the use of products containing these chemicals. BPA is one of the highest volume chemicals produced worldwide. Laboratory studies have shown widespread health effects, at least in part through endocrine disruption mechanisms. The National Toxicology Program has some concern for the effects on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and children at current human exposures to Bisphenol A.
	9.	Does this product contain less than 1000 ppm halogenated organic flame retardants by weight of homogenous material? (Yes/No)	Yes	Halogenated organic flame retardants are intended to inhibit ignition and the spread of flames. Halogenated chemicals are chemicals that contain bromine, chlorine, fluorine or iodine bonded to a carbon atom. Homogeneous means uniform composition throughout, such as individual types of plastics or paper. Homogenous material, as defined by RoHS, is a unit that cannot be mechanically disjointed into single materials, or any material that is not mechanically divisible (disassembled, cut or ground) into separate material constituents. Mechanically disjointed means the materials can be, in principle, separated by mechanical actions such as unscrewing, cutting, crushing, grinding and abrasive processes. ^{ix} Guidance for suppliers on testing is available.	Halogenated organic flame retardants and/or their breakdown products tend to be persistent bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) in the environment. They are widely found in the environment and in humans with Americans having some of the highest levels of them in their bodies. Some halogenated organic flame retardants are carcinogenic. These compounds are used in foams (for furniture and mattresses), textiles, paints and coatings, electronics, and plastics in health care. Alternatives exist that reduce the concern for environmental and human health effects. The European Union has a ban on some brominated flame retardants. In Europe, the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive RoHS restricts the use of PBDE's and PBB's in electronic equipment.

	10.	Is this product free of intentionally added mercury? (Yes/No)	Yes	Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil. It exists in several forms: elemental or metallic mercury, inorganic mercury compounds, and organic mercury compounds. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	Medical facilities use a large variety of mercury-containing equipment and products. ^x Mercury is persistent bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and is found in thermometers, sphygmomanometers, dental amalgam, lab reagents, cleaners, electrical switches, and other scientific apparatus. Mercury is a potent neurotoxicant that can affect the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. It is also toxic to the kidneys. Efforts in health care are intended to reduce exposure to patients and staff, address workplace safety, and safely handle products at the end of life.
	11.	Is this product free of intentionally added latex? (Yes/No)	Yes	Latex is natural rubber latex that comes from a liquid found in tropical rubber trees. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	Liquid latex is processed to make many medical and dental supplies, including gloves, blood pressure cuffs, urinary catheters, dental dams and material used to fill root canals, as well as tourniquets and equipment for resuscitation. Non-latex substitutes (synthetic latex) can be found for all of these latex-containing items. The protein in rubber can cause an allergic reaction in some people. This reaction can range from sneezing to anaphylactic shock, which is a serious condition that requires immediate medical attention.
	12.	Will this product be classified (on its own or when aggregated) as non-hazardous waste according to EPA's RCRA when disposed? (under 40 CFR 261.31-33)? (Yes/No)	Yes	Hazardous wastes are those determined by EPA to be hazardous including those classified as hazardous and if products exhibit one of the four characteristics (defined in 40 CFR Part 261.21-24). Hazardous wastes are divided into listed wastes, characteristic wastes, universal wastes , and mixed wastes. Specific procedures determine how waste is identified , classified, listed, and delisted. The Resource Conservation and Control ACT (RCRA) mandates strict controls over disposal of hazardous waste. These listed wastes are divided into three categories: K-list, F-list, and the P and U-Lists. Characteristic wastes include wastes that exhibit ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity. Universal wastes include batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing products and lamps. Examples include computer equipment, lead-containing products, and applicable cleaning chemicals.	Purchasers should know when products may become hazardous waste at the end of product use so that facilities can comply with EPA and RCRA regulations regarding the handling of hazardous waste or to seek alternatives during the procurement process. Reducing hazardous waste generation lessens the environmental impact and the expenses associated with disposal. Suppliers should seek alternative technologies to the greatest extent possible. Many state regulations may be more stringent than federal requirements. Consult the HERC State Hazardous Waste Locator to find more information on an individual state's hazardous waste regulations. For more information on EPA listed wastes: http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/index.htm .

13.	Does this product contain carcinogens or reproductive toxicants, as listed under the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Proposition 65, below Prop 65 Safe harbor levels ? (Yes/No)	Yes	California's Prop 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act , enacted in 1986, requires the state to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive harm. Prop 65 applies to suppliers who sell products in the state if their products exceed safe harbor levels established in Prop 65. Safe harbor levels establish thresholds for no significant risk levels (NSRLs) for carcinogens and maximum allowable dose levels (MADLs) for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity.	The California Proposition 65 list is an authoritative government list of carcinogens <i>and</i> reproductive toxicants that health care facilities may wish to avoid. All suppliers who do business in California must comply with this law. As such, this law already applies to many suppliers in the health care sector. Since this list is updated at least once a year, suppliers must provide up-to-date information for procurement contracts.
-----	--	-----	---	--

Environmental Attributes for Future Consideration

As part of the process of developing environmental questions and medical product attributes, we considered attributes that have long-standing recognition as attributes of concern, (e.g., mercury) as well as those more recently recognized as attributes of concern, such as (e.g., Bisphenol A). A number of other medical product attributes of potential concern were reviewed but not included in the Standardized Environmental Questions for Medical Products, Version 1. We are including below the information on these other attributes that will be considered in future versions of this document. We welcome feedback on these attributes. Send your comments and suggestions to: GSC@practicegreenhealth.org

All Ingredients Known	Your company knows all the intentionally added chemicals and materials in this product.	Leading companies are identifying all intentionally added ingredients in their products, and byproducts of concern. Many companies are also sharing this data through the supply chain. Knowing information on material ingredients will allow immediate action on any newly identified toxic or environmentally problematic material.	Patients and staff can be intentionally or unintentionally exposed to chemicals and materials in products. Preference may be given for companies who are taking steps to know the full ingredients in the products they sell to health care. Many leading companies are seeking and providing chemical ingredient information throughout the supply chain.
All Ingredients Tested	Each chemical or material ingredient in this product has had basic toxicity screening (based on a screening regime like SIDS or equivalent).	Many industrial chemicals are not fully tested for their effects on health and the environment. There are data gaps in the information. This means that health care systems may use chemicals that have not been fully evaluated for their health and environmental impacts. SIDS (the screening information data set) is an internationally recognized set of toxicity screening tests to help determine the toxicity of high production volume chemicals. The US EPA's High Production Volume Chemicals Program uses the SIDS set of tests to provide screening level information for HPV chemicals. For the SIDS manual, see http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/18/36045056.pdf	Many chemicals in commerce have inadequate toxicity testing. Purchasers are seeking products that contain only chemicals tested for environmental and human health concerns. EPA considers the OECD/SIDS testing program to be an integral part of the U.S. domestic chemical testing program. EPA continues to strongly encourage members of the U.S. chemical industry to continue its testing and data sharing efforts under this international collaborative program.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Media Contact: Lauren Smith



(202) 470-5381



LaurenSmith@rational360.com



**HSCA, GROUP PURCHASING INDUSTRY ENDORSE LANDMARK ENVIRONMENTAL TOOL FROM
PRACTICE GREENHEALTH TO HELP GUIDE SELECTION AND PROCUREMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS FOR HOSPITALS**



*Standardized Questionnaire to Help Ensure that Healthcare Supply Chain Has Access to Safest,
Environmentally Sustainable Products and Services*



WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 13, 2011)—The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) today announced at its annual International Expo that it has endorsed the Practice Greenhealth “Standardized Environmental Questions for Medical Products,” which can be used to guide the identification, selection and procurement of environmentally preferable medical products. The tool is a significant part of Practice Greenhealth’s Greening the Supply Chain™ Initiative, which the organization launched earlier this year to provide a common set of tools for purchasers, suppliers and manufacturers to ensure that environmentally preferable products (EPP) are available, cost competitive, of comparable quality and generate a sector-wide market shift in the direction of sound EPP practices.



Sustaining Our Healing Ministry

FY 2011
Social Responsibility Report

Reducing Hazardous Chemicals: At the start of this initiative, no Chemicals Policy was in existence. In FY 2009, Dignity Health adopted a comprehensive chemical policy which articulates our commitment to create an environment for patients, employees, and visitors that is free from the hazards posed by chemicals harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. Implementing the policy has proven to be challenging in that the issues are complex and the constituencies that need to be educated are numerous and diverse.

Assisting us in developing strategies for promoting, developing, and using chemicals that are environmentally preferable across their entire lifecycle are NGO stakeholders from Health Care Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth, and Clean Production Action. Participating on monthly conference calls we used the [BizNGO Working Group's Guide to Safer Chemicals](#) and its four Principles for Safer Chemicals as a resource and tool.

These four principles (#1 - Know and Disclose Product Chemistry, #2 - Assess and Avoid Hazards, #3 - Commit to Continuous Improvement, #4 - Support Public Policies and Industry Standards) have as their aim the reduction and elimination of chemicals of concern to our health and the health of our environment. The principles and accompanying questions assist organizations by increasing the level and quality of information that vendors are required to disclose on product content and toxicity throughout the supply chain. The questions signal the market that, organizations such as ours prefer to purchase products that do not contain chemicals or materials that are inherently toxic, and eventually will prefer to purchase high performing products that are designed and made without high hazard chemicals.

Presently, we are increasingly addressing chemicals of concern with our suppliers, asking advance information about chemicals and chemical components of products. Some specific examples include pvc, dehp, mercury, latex, and triclosan.

In addition, we have introduced the Chemical Policy to the SSRM team and our Environmental Services Managers and asked them to review the chemical content of the products they use and to choose alternatives if necessary.

The following table offers an initial assessment and comprehensive view of where Dignity Health is in managing chemicals in products as well as opportunities for next steps.



Dignity Health Pilot: BizNGO Roadmap to Safer Chemicals

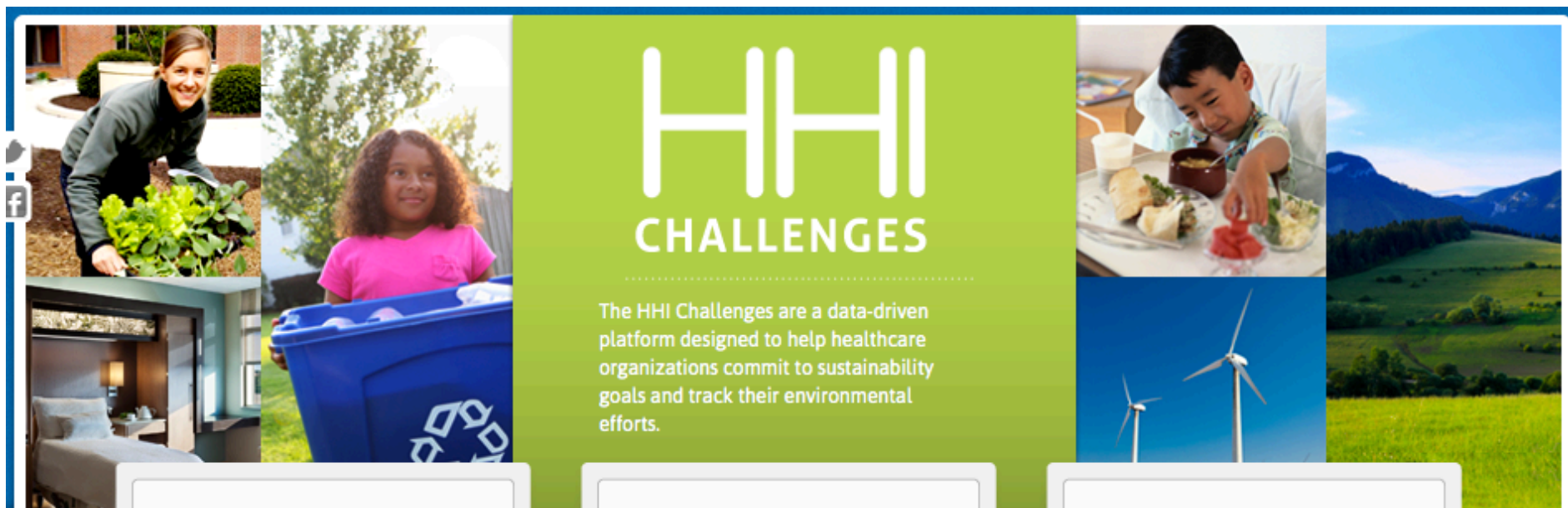
Principle	Benchmark	Strengths	Opportunities for Improvement
#1 Know and Disclose Product Chemistry	Trailhead	Dignity Health is already requesting that suppliers/ GPO request data for a handful of chemicals of high concern.	Dignity Health could, with its GPO, ask if suppliers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know all chemical ingredients in their product (beyond MSDS) • publicly disclose all ingredients.
#2 Assess and Avoid Hazards	Trailhead	Dignity Health is already purchasing safer alternatives for a handful of chemicals and has established internal and external (with GPO) protocols for environmentally preferable procurement.	Expand target chemicals for elimination/reduction (#2.3a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask IT firms if they evaluate product content using Green Screen (#2.4); many are already doing this. • Other easy actions for Dignity Health to address are halogenated chemicals in electronics (#2.7) and RoHS chemicals in all electronic products ((#2.8)
#3 Commit to Continuous Improvement	Base Camp	Solid foundation in place for implementing comprehensive safer chemicals program across the organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set clear goals for knowing chemicals in products and moving away from chemicals of high concern in products • Publicly report on goals and progress towards them.
#4 Support Public Policies and Standards	Summit	Very active in advocacy work and collaborating with NGO's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set annual priorities and report on activities.
Overall	Base Camp	Dignity Health is a leader in the movement to safer alternatives to toxic chemicals in products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a model for documenting progress to moving to safer alternatives to toxic chemical products.

Benchmarks

Trailhead: Beginning • Base Camp: On the Path • High Camp: Making Good Progress • Summit: Essentially Complete

Healthier Hospitals Initiative

- 11 Sponsoring HHI systems alone represent 90,000 hospital beds, \$13 billion in purchasing, and 700,000 employees
- Participating hospitals join for FREE
- Goal is to sign up hundreds of hospitals nation-wide
- Metrics tracked on 6 major initiatives



Safer Chemicals Challenge

Baseline

Achieve mercury-free status or develop and implement mercury elimination plan.

Level

1

Commit to **one** of the following: Green cleaning, DEHP/PVC reduction, healthy interiors.

Level

2

Commit to **two** of the following: Green cleaning, DEHP/PVC reduction, healthy interiors.

Level

3

Commit to **three** of the following: Green cleaning, DEHP/PVC reduction, healthy interiors.

Green Cleaning:

Purchase 90 percent Green Seal or EcoLogo certified cleaning products in these four categories: carpet, window, all purpose, and bathroom.

A

DEHP/PVC Reduction:

Eliminate DEHP/PVC from at least one product line*.

B

Healthy Interiors:

Ensure that 25 percent of the annual volume of freestanding furniture and medical furnishings*, purchases based on cost, eliminate the intentional use of halogenated flame retardants, formaldehyde, perfluorinated compounds and PVC (also known as vinyl).

C

Smarter Purchasing

Level 1

Commit to **one** of: Surgical kit review, single use device reprocessing or electronic products environmental assessment tool (EPEAT) purchasing goals.

Level 2

Commit to **two** of: Surgical kit review, single use device reprocessing or electronic products environmental assessment tool (EPEAT) purchasing goals.

Level 3

Commit to **three** of: Surgical kit review, single use device reprocessing or electronic products environmental assessment tool (EPEAT) purchasing goals.

A

Surgical kit review:

Review at least 30 custom surgical O.R. kits or 80 percent of O.R. kit types, whichever is greater in efforts to eliminate unneeded materials.

B

Single use device reprocessing:

Increase expenditure of reprocessed FDA-eligible single use devices by 50 percent.

C

Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT):
Specify and report expenditures on EPEAT registered devices.