

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Subject: HMH Sustainable Procurement Policy
Effective Date: 10/18/05
Revised: Date: 1/15/18

Procedure No. MM-52.0
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General

Policy: To establish guidelines for environmentally responsible purchasing decisions.

Administration: The VP of Purchasing is responsible for the administration and subsequent revisions to this procedure with input from the Purchasing department Green Team.

Environmentally responsible purchasing helps hospitals:

- Contribute to a healthier environment for patients and health care workers through reduced exposure to hazardous substances.
- Create a culture of quality performance through increased environmental awareness.
- Significantly lessen their impact on the environment.
- Reduce capital and operating costs, including those due to lower overhead, avoided waste disposal, pollution abatement, decreased liability and lower potential occupational injury costs.

Procedure:

- 1) The Purchasing department will investigate and purchase products and services that have a reduced negative effect on human health and the environment. Environmentally responsible products and services will be compared against competing products and services serving the same purpose.
- 2) The Purchasing department will notify and work with suppliers and the GPO around the medical center's intentions and environmental policy. (Vendor Qualification Process, Sales Representative Credentialing, Business Reviews).

3) In order to determine if a product is environmentally responsible, the following attributes represent considerations that will be considered:

- Persistent bio-accumulative toxic (PBT) free
- Free of bisphenol A and its structural analogs
- PVC free
- Phthalate free (including Di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP), Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP), Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DnHP), Di-isodecyl phthalate (DIDP), Dibutyl phthalate (DBP), Diisononyl phthalate (DINP), Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP), Di n-pentyl phthalate (DPENP), Dicyclohexyl (DCHP), and Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DHEXP))
- Formaldehyde free
- Per- and poly-fluorinated compound free
- Free of Proposition 65 chemicals
- Not made with natural latex rubber
- Halogenated flame retardant free
- Toxic metal free (including lead, mercury and cadmium)
- Polystyrene free
- Triclosan and triclocarban free
- Low or no volatile organic compound (VOC) content
- Recyclable and or Recycled content
- Mercury Free
- Reduced packaging
- Compostable and or marine degradable
- Rapidly renewable materials
- Reusable and able to be reprocessed

4) The medical center is committed to eliminating chemicals of concern in all clinical and non-clinical areas.

5) Any product used for hand hygiene, including liquid soap, bar soap, foam soap, hand sanitizer, hand rub, antiseptic, or lotion, shall be free of triclosan and triclocarban. All antimicrobials shall be eliminated from hand hygiene products outside of surgical and other critical care areas.

6) All furniture purchases must be free of all flame retardants, PVC, formaldehyde, antimicrobials, and per- and poly-fluorinated compounds. Please refer to Environment of Care on Intranet to see expanded list of Chemicals of Concern.

7) The medical center is committed to environmentally preferable cleaning, including through the purchase of products certified by Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO, and disinfection.

8) The medical center is committed to using products and services that incorporate integrated pest management practices, including pest prevention and the use of least-toxic products.

9) The medical center is committed to buying environmentally responsible products as long as they meet our standards for patient care along with physician and employee safety. It is understood that all products under consideration will perform as good or better than the product they will replace, are readily available and do not create a financial hardship to the medical center. Savings can be identified beyond the purchase price and factoring in the total cost of ownership.

Specifically these products and services:

- Use greener chemicals that are inherently less hazardous and release little to no toxic by-products across their lifecycle.
- Promote the use of renewable materials by increasing the use of sustainable, bio-based materials and reducing the use of fossil fuel-based materials.
- Support healthy food systems by sourcing local, seasonal nutritious and sustainably produced food products.
- Enhance land stewardship by cultivating healthy ecosystems and protecting natural resources.
- Minimize the footprint through reducing greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing more efficient products for transportation, facility operations and other strategies.
- Promote sustainable energy by using renewable energy sources and reducing energy use.
- Protect clean air by emitting little or no pollutants.
- Increase the availability of clean water by minimizing water use, water pollution, and bottled water products.
- Minimize waste by implementing the three “Rs”: reduce, reuse and recycle.

- Use environmentally sound waste disposal technologies where reuse, reduction and recycling cannot be achieved.
- 10) The Purchasing Department staff will receive an annual update on this policy and procedure by the Purchasing Department Sustainability Committee.
- 11) Capital equipment requiring installation and/or renovations will require vendors and related trades to remove all debris and packaging materials from the medical center. This clause will be added to all purchase orders where applicable.

Definitions:

- For complete list of definitions please see Environment of Care site on intranet for explanation of chemicals.
- Environmentally preferred purchasing –is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to conventional products
- Phthalates– are plasticizers, used to increase the flexibility of polymers like polyvinyl chloride (PVC). DEHP is the plasticizer used for most PVC medical devices such as IV bags and tubing. DEHP and other phthalates can leach out of medical devices into the solution or medication it contains and subsequently into the patient.
- Hazardous waste –is a “solid waste” which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored or disposed of, or otherwise mismanaged; or cause or contribute to an increase in mortality, or an increase in irreversible or incapacitating illness.
- Lifecycle – a product’s lifecycle refers to the environmental and public health implications of all phases of a product’s existence; from raw material extraction or production, to manufacture, distribution,

use, and disposal and includes all intervening transportation.

- Post-consumer waste – is any product which has served its intended use by a business or a consumer, which has been disposed and subsequently separated from solid waste for use as a constituent in a new product. Quite commonly, it is simply the garbage individuals routinely discard, either in a waste receptacle or a dump, or by littering, incinerating, pouring down the drain, or washing into the gutter.
- Take back provisions – encompass the ability to return items for credit, reuse and disposal such as the return of mercury sphygmomanometers, fluorescent lights, shipping containers and packaging etc.