

Transition to reusable med tech priority products: Design for Life team, DHSC

Call for Expressions of Interest

Background

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH) has been commissioned by the Design for Life team at the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to deliver a pilot project focused on the transition to reusable med tech products across the NHS. This initiative directly supports the Government's vision to transition away from avoidable single-use med tech products by 2045, as outlined in the [Design for Life Roadmap](#) which was published in October 2024.

The pilot project

The aim of the project is twofold:

1. To quantify the benefits to NHS Trusts and Health Boards (HBs) from transitioning to a reusable alternative compared to a single-use version for a selection of 'high-potential' products.
2. To better understand the difficulties NHS Trusts and HBs will face when undergoing such a transition, what actions can be taken to enable transition despite these difficulties, and best practices.

The Design for Life team has provided a priority list of 'high potential' products that should be explored as part of this project (see Annex 1). The DHSC have determined that the project will run for eight weeks and must be concluded by the end of March 2025.

Project delivery plan

In partnership with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), CSH will develop a methodological framework for delivering the project, incorporating carbon and cost modelling, readiness assessment, data collection and processes to ensure patient safety and infection control. It will also develop guidance and training, where appropriate, for participating healthcare staff and confirm any ethical or data protection requirements.

In participating Trusts and HBs, CSH will **support and share learning from the transition to a reusable alternative for one or more of the high-potential products**. Support will be given to a) measure and report on the impact of an already implemented change, or b) support the planning and impact modelling of a proposed change, e.g. to support a business case or upcoming initiative. A key outcome will be the **quantification of the environmental and financial costs and benefits** of transitioning to reusable products. The CSH team has significant experience in working with NHS Trusts on projects of this nature and has well-developed skills to support and oversee the successful delivery of projects led by busy healthcare staff. Our '[Green Team Competition](#)' is modelled in a similar way to this project and has been run over 20 times since 2019.

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We are now inviting NHS Trusts and HBs who are interested in participating in this project to **submit an expression of interest to CSH**. Given the compressed timeframe for this project, we are particularly interested in hearing from Trusts/HBs who have recently, are currently or are actively considering trialling the transition from one or more of the high-potential products to a reusable alternative.

To submit an expression of interest, please complete [this short online form](#) by **Thursday 13 February**, providing details of your role, your Trust and your experience in transitioning to reusable med tech products. We will then arrange a time for a call to discuss your organisation's participation in more detail.

Annex 1: Design for Life ‘high potential’ med tech products for transition to reusable alternatives.

Product	Priority
Video laryngoscope	High
Forced air warming	High
Slide Sheets	High
Theatre warming jackets	High
Blood pressure cuffs	High
Curtains	High
Tray wrap (CSSD containers to replace)	High
Ureteroscopes	High
Laryngeal mask airway	High
Video laryngoscope blades	High
Anaesthetic face masks	High
Bronchoscopes	High
Baby Bottle	High
Diathermy cable	High
Patient return electrode	High
Hysteroscopes	Medium
Colonoscopes	Medium
Fixation strap	Medium
Gastrosopes	Medium
Instrument delivery set (maternity)	Medium
Nasopharyngoscopes	Medium
Sterilization tray insert	Medium
Surgical boots	Medium
Disposable thermometer	Medium
Laposcopic instruments	Medium
Sharps containers	Medium
Scissors - Single Use	Medium
Tourniquets	Medium
Sterile drapes	Medium
Sterile Surgical Gown	Medium
Theatre Cap/Hat	Medium
Vaginal specula	Medium
Medical hollowware	Medium
Isolation gown	Medium
Surgical scrub caps	Medium
Ethyl chloride sprays/Coolsticks	Medium
A&E suture kits	Medium
Walking aid reuse	Medium