

Corporate Social Responsibility - Revamping protocols and changing practice to promote ethical sustainable responsible business in haemodialysis.

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By 2030 The NHS Framework for Sustainable Development sets out to support 9 of the 17 United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The renal service provides haemodialysis (HD) to patients in the North East. The department currently has 88 HD machines in use across 3 HD units and a renal ward.

The department has started to review it's protocols to support smarter working and one example of this is to reduce water consumption. Old protocols do not always tally with advances in machine design. It was discovered that the organisation was carrying out unnecessary machine disinfection at the start of each day and therefore wasting 1.8 million litres of clean drinking water each year, also, pouring 3000 litres of Citrosteril machine disinfectant into the water drainage systems and subsequently the environment.

Waste reduction includes a range of measures to prevent and reduce waste. The review of one protocol led to discussions around machine isolation.

Modern HD machines do not require isolation between use. The emphasis should be on how the external surfaces of the machine are thoroughly cleaned using appropriate / recommended solutions. Renal engineers can be called out to repair isolated machines when isolation is not necessary, this is a further waste of department resources and unnecessary treatment delays.

Our new generation of renal patients and staff are the key stakeholders of the organisation. They are more focused and engaged on how services can work smartly in responsible consumption and production to reduce waste and harm to the environment. By a simple review of 1 protocol we can demonstrate change that is beneficial to the environment reducing harm and saving water. The journey continues.