



Issue: Disposable Hygiene Products

Raised by: Sue Leverton RAN, Yuendumu Health Centre

Background: Request to consider stocking disposable hygiene products (i.e. bedpans, urinals etc) due to inadequate cleaning facilities to clean re-usable products.

Discussion: A review of suppliers was undertaken with the *Vernacare* brand of disposable products selected as providing the most suitable product range in the remote health care setting. A trial of a range of products (i.e. slipper pan, urinal, jug, wash bowl) at 10 health centres was undertaken over a three month period.

All products were suitable for disposal as per standard waste management processes i.e. to landfill once contents had been disposed of in the toilet.

A survey of participating health centres concluded general agreement with the range of products as suitable and the advantage of no cleaning requirements was acknowledged. Demand of the products was low and in some locations had not been used during the trial period. The most common disadvantage noted by participants was that the products were bulky, and storage was problematic.

Royal Darwin Hospital Stores Department does not have the capacity to carry this stock, and other Departmental Stores would prefer not to hold. Similarly, inclusion of these items in the Remote Health Stock process is not feasible due to the bulk storage requirements.

The Best Practice Group acknowledges the OH&S advantages that disposable products provide in the Remote Health Centre environment and supports the use of such products where logistical factors can be addressed.

Products are generally available in carton quantities (50 or 100) and would need to be acquired through the Internal Requisition process. Where being utilised 'neighbouring' Health Centres could coordinate ordering and sharing of stock.

Consultation: Tain Gardiner (Infection Control – Katherine / Gove Hospitals), Ebos Healthcare, Tiwi Island Health Centres,

Health Centres that participated in trial: Yuendumu, Gapuwiyak, Daly River, Papunya, Lake Nash, Hermannsburg, Ali Curung, Belyuen, Borroloola, Jabiru

References: Vernacare Product Information, Atlas item: [Waste Management](#)

Outcome: The use of disposable hygiene products is considered suitable for Remote Health Centres, but there are difficulties related to a centralised distribution process.

Where a health centre might opt to use these products, purchase will need to be managed at the Health Centre level through individual Internal Requisition.

Ordering information is available from Kacy Kohn ph 8987 0332