



Issue: **Blanket Warmers**

Raised by: Remote Health Capital Equipment Group

Background: Blanket Warmers have been proposed for purchase as capital equipment in Remote Health. Are these units supported for use as they are not currently included on the [Standard Clinical Equipment List](#)?

Discussion: Presumably the request for blanket warmers is in consideration of managing shocked trauma cases.

Although warm blankets are acknowledged as beneficial in managing trauma clients, the Northern Territory Remote Health context does not generally indicate that additional warmth will be a significant consideration in clinical management. However, cold weather conditions do occur in the winter months in Central Australia.

The standardised [Emergency Response Kit](#) currently includes two space blankets.

A number of other factors do not lend support to the purchase of dedicated blanket warmers:

- Cost is prohibitive against likely benefit (quotes received for \$4000-6000)
- Blankets would often be required off site (trauma scenarios) and therefore warmers not accessible when required
- Potential for warm blankets to become 'attractive items' with resource loss
- Blanket Warmers are bulky fixtures in health centres where space is often limited
- Blankets are bulky relative to the need to keep emergency equipment at a minimum
- Additional maintenance requirement

An alternate option for warming blankets in the health centre is the use of tumble dryers.

Consultation: Evocare Australia.

References: Nil

Outcome: **Dedicated clinical Blanket Warmer units are not recommended for Remote Health.**