

Using Reusable Containers for Hospital Waste

Is there an Infection Risk?

Author Grimmond T.

Publication South Afr J Epidemiol Infect
2013;28(4):197-201.

“This paper assessed the international literature on Reusable Waste Containers infection risk and found negligible to nil risk of pathogen or disease transfer. The literature confirms that disinfection and microbiological monitoring and validation of RWC is not indicated, and that washing with hot water and detergent, using visual criteria for cleanliness and due diligence on contractor selection, enable reusable containers to be safely used” - Terry Grimmond

What was the study?

Reusable Waste Containers (RWC) are used to transport sharp and non-sharp healthcare risk waste in many countries. Initially with their introduction there may be a perception of risk of pathogen or disease transmission.

This study examined the international literature and guidelines to determine the microbiological risk of using RWC and what, if any, process validation or monitoring may be indicated.

What were the results?

- RWC pose a negligible to nil risk of pathogen transmission to patients and environments.
- There are no published reports of disease transmission from RWC.
- The probability of RWC being associated with infection is an extremely low 1 in 400 million.
- RWC are assessed as having risk level 6, representing the lowest level of risk for infection transfer.
- At risk level 6, RWC require cleaning for safe reuse, with no need for disinfection.

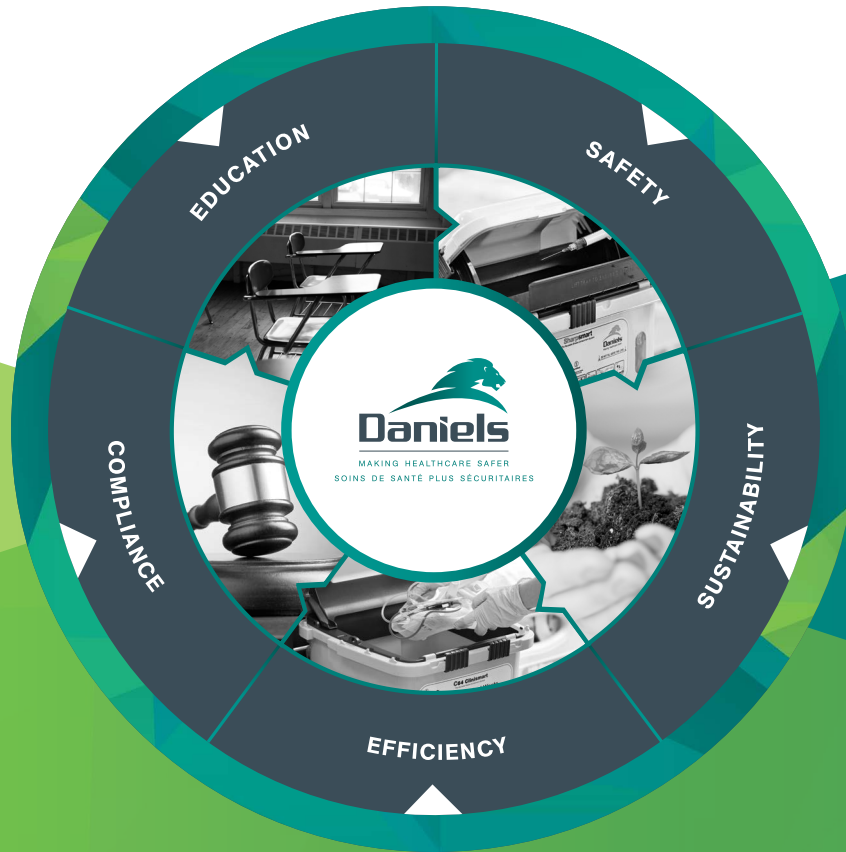
What does this mean for you?

- Thorough cleaning using visual criteria, and due diligence in selecting RWC contractors, will ensure risk-free use of RWC.
- It is unnecessary to microbiologically monitor RWC.
- Hospitals adopting RWC are in compliance with national sustainability legislature.
- There are significant benefits to using RWC including reduction of Health Care Worker sharps injury risk, reduction of waste landfilled, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



“Peer review is the critical assessment by experts, of manuscripts submitted to journals... unbiased, independent, critical assessment is an intrinsic part of all scholarly work.”

International committee of Medical Journal editors



The Daniels Difference

Healthcare Waste Management cost efficiencies are derived from the successful deployment of five key elements. At Daniels Health we work closely with our customers to ensure that all healthcare staff are protected, trained and equipped, that the facilities' risk profile is managed, and waste management costs are minimised.

Safety: Our highest commitment is safety; through intelligent products, systemised solutions and bespoke training, we work with our customers to reduce needlestick injuries, minimise infection transfer and provide solutions that protect the safety and minimise risk for staff and patients.

Sustainability: Our reusable products and environmentally responsible treatment services are designed to maximise segregation, reduce CO2 burden and minimise waste going to landfill. Through waste mapping, auditing and environmentally graded solutions, we work with our customers to achieve the highest green ratings.

Efficiency: Daniels Health optimises the efficiencies of healthcare environments through smart products, process re-engineering and redefined waste handling methodologies. Significantly reducing the labour used in handling of waste through point-of-use bagless containment systems, an extensive range of mounting options and accessories and logistical solutions, our customised services guarantee optimised time and movement efficiencies.

Compliance: Experts in the regulatory complexities governing the healthcare sector, we position ourselves as an astute partner delivering expert guidance and compliant solutions to our customers. All Daniels solutions are vetted against state and federal regulations and executed through waste plans and training to achieve optimised safety and compliance.

Education: Our ongoing commitment to educate staff within healthcare ensures that together we achieve greater safety awareness and drive behavioral change in waste management, segregation, compliance and best practice management. Through a blended learning approach using onsite training, a range of educational material and module-based e-learning, we ensure all healthcare staff are trained and compliance certified.



www.danielshealth.ca



canada@danielshealth.ca



1-888-952-5580