

BE RAD AVOID THE PAD PROJECT



AIM: Decrease the use of disposable plastic absorbent pads for moist heat warming prior to peripheral intravenous cannulation at BC Cancer Prince George by 80% by August 2024

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INTRO: Prior to project launch on May 6, 2024, 2500-3000 disposable blue pads per year used for IV prewarming hotpacks. There were 3900 delivered to the chemo store-room. BC Cancer Prince George treats 75% less than some other larger centers. There is potential of this project to have a great impact provincially.

The Approach:

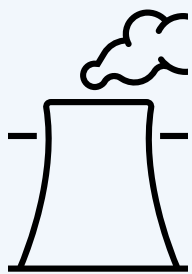
- Education provided comparing moist heat versus dry heat for IV prewarming to emphasize alternatives
- Discussed assessment of vein status and appropriate intervention
- Encouraged sustainable alternatives (hot towel, dry towel)

What was measured:

- Data collected from EMR and supply chain
- On average 325 blue pads ordered to chemo supply room per month.
- 2500-3000 blue pads used per year for IV prewarming

The Impact:

- Environmental impact measures were gathered based on the use of 2500 pads per year.
- Blue pad use in the PG Chemo room has a carbon footprint (GWP) of 1,037.5 kg CO₂ eq (equivalent to 442 L gasoline consumed).
 - Reduce overall use by 85% in the chemo room.
 - Monthly overall average of 86 kg CO₂ in blue pads down to 13 kg CO₂.



Feeling the heat: Healthcare in Canada is responsible for 4.6% of green house gas emissions.

1.5 KM

Of blue pad plastic waste per year in Prince George

442 L

Emissions from blue pads is equivalent to 442 litres of gasoline consumption.

BASEBALL DIAMOND OF BLUE PADS: WE USED 7000 SQUARE FEET OF BLUE PADS PER YEAR



Biggest Takeaway:

Front-line clinicians are leaders in healthcare and with that, they can drive multi-level organizational change. This smaller project achieved more than its goal by creating awareness and providing education to nurses. The use of blue pads overall in the chemo room was reduced by 85%. It was predicated that 325 pads were used per month for IV prewarming and 115 were used for other tasks. The reduction in overall use and not just the target of IV hot packs, proves that awareness has an impact, and this wouldn't have been possible without the positivity and willingness of the nurses.