



Forego the Blues, Please Reuse

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AIM: To decrease disposable blue pad use in RT ACU department during pelvic exams by 80% by Aug 26/24.

Outcomes:

100%

elimination of disposable blue pads during pelvic exams.

Background:

- Pelvic exams are completed in RT ACU and require use of 1 disposable blue pad.
- Blue pads may be harmful to human health; once in landfill they breakdown into microplastics.

reusable substitution



Methods:

I. Pre-Implementation Data

Dates: July 26th -August 12th, 2024

- # of Patient Appointments (n=34)
- # of Pelvic Exams (n=33)
 - # of Blue Pads Used (n=33)

II. Targeted Staff Education

- Huddles, posters, emails.

III. Post-Implementation Data

Dates: Aug 16th-26th/2024.

- # of Patient Appointments (n=21)
- # of Pelvic Exams (n=21)
 - # of Reusable Pads Used (n=21)
 - # of Blue Pads Used (n=0)

In 1 year, this will save 500 blue pads from landfill.

Equivalent to 300m of pads, or 6 lengths in an Olympic swimming pool

Next Steps:

Limitations:

- Clinic not at max patient volume due to summer staffing.
- Expand reusable pads to other exams.
- Use pads for exam only if needed.
- Sustaining practice change with increased patient volumes and expansion of gynecological oncology services at BC Cancer - Kelowna.
- Education for new staff.