

OPHTHALMIC HOSPITALIST INTEREST GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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Announcements

AAO/OHIG Online Community

What are OHIG members saying about iPhone consult photography, inpatient ophthalmologist trends, and wishlist topics for OHIG 2022?

Join the conversation on the AAO [OHIG Community](#)! It has 74 members and growing!

OHIG Think Tank

Re-scheduled for spring 2022. Will be in virtual Zoom format. More details to come!

Welcome New Members!

Excited to have you join OHIG! Please verify your information on the [OHIG website](#). Thank you!



Image Source

Articles

[*The Greening of Ophthalmology, Eyenet, July 2019*](#)

"First do no harm - not only for patients but also for the environment." An inspiring article from the AAO that talks about taking the profession in a greener direction in regards to minimizing waste and re-use.

[*Waste Production from Phacoemulsification Surgery, JCRS, 2020*](#)

Read about the average waste generated by a single cataract surgery and about ways to follow the three "R" principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle to reduce environmental impact.

[*Green Surgical Practices for Health Care, JAMA, Feb 2011*](#)

An interesting article providing a review of the literature and survey responses from an expert green leader among health care organizations. Read about their five recommendations for green surgical healthcare.

PEARLS



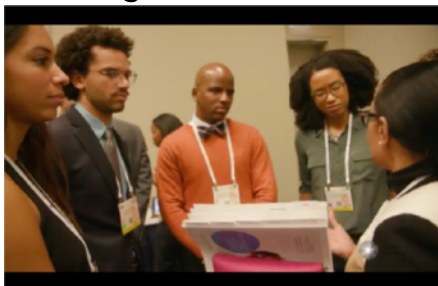
Eyecare Recycling Program



Check out this national recycling program for contact lens cases and eye drop bottles. Request a box and ship all those empty consult eye med bottles for recycling!

[Click here](#)

Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring



An exciting program sponsored by the AAO and AUPO designed to increase diversity in ophthalmology by helping underrepresented students become competitive ophthalmology applicants.

[Click here](#)

CONSULT ROUNDS



Have you ever wondered about the mountain of trash ready for disposal at the end of every surgical case?

Did you know that the US healthcare system produces nearly 4 million tons of solid waste per year and produces 8-10% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the US?

How can we go more green with our globs repairs?

Check out what the **Moran Eye Center** is doing at the **University of Utah** to recycle and reduce their OR waste.

Items including gowns, towels, table drapes are sterilized and reprocessed at a local company called Sterile Processing Services of America (<http://www.spsausa.com>) so they can be re-used for future cases. Plastic and paper packaging can also be recycled.

There is daily drop off and pick up of used items by the company. The estimated cost for this service is about \$4 per OR case.



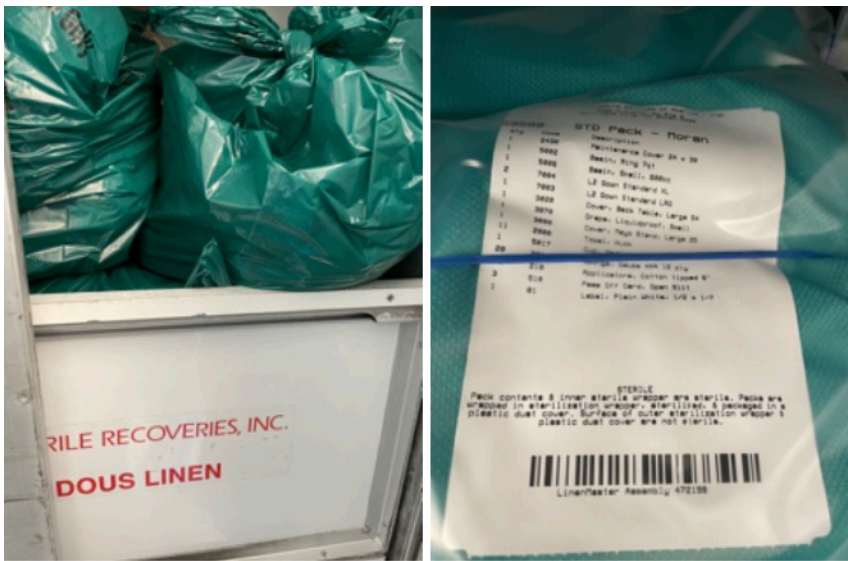
Reprocessed Packs Ready for the OR



Surgical Pack Containing Sterilized Reprocessed Items



Used items placed in Green Bags and sent for Reprocessing Each Day



Question: Is there any advice you would give to others who might be interested in setting something like this up at their own institution?

Comments: It is important to emphasize that the statement “recycling/reusing is better than trash” is a far oversimplified approach to waste which is not black and white. The waste (energy, water) associated with recycling should also be considered. For example, our reusable gowns are sterilized by a third party - it is not done in house. The energy required to transport the gowns and then sterilize them should be considered in comparison with single-use gowns.

Another point is that some products are clearly marked recyclable such as the plastic inserts in suture packets. In contrast, some products are tough to recycle such as plastic film on peel packs which are not recyclable at some plants.

It is also important to make sure that contamination is not a major issue.

Relevant Articles:

How to Reduce Waste by Increasing Use of Reusable Medical Textiles, [Click here](#)

Special **thank you** to the amazing faculty and OR staff in Utah (**Ariana Levin, Theresa Long, Lillian Pontacolone,** and **Linda Fiedel**) for sharing their wonderful work and providing thoughtful considerations when it comes to going green for globes and hospital consults.

Would love to hear how others are going green in ophthalmology!

Share your answer and see what others have to say on the AAO/OHIG Community! [Click here](#)