

## WHY GO GREEN?

- ❖ DID YOU KNOW THAT 6 MILLION TONS OF MEDICAL WASTE IS GENERATED ANNUALLY BY HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES?
  - ❖ DID YOU KNOW THAT 30% OF THAT WASTE COMES FROM OPERATING ROOMS ALONE?
  - ❖ AND.....20-40% OF THIS WASTE COULD BE RECYCLED!
  - ❖ OPERATING ROOMS MAKE HUGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT, LANDFILLS, AND THE IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IS ENORMOUS.
- And **WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!**

### 3 Reasons for OR's to GO GREEN:

- ❖ To protect the environment
- ❖ Safety for patients and OR team members
- ❖ Financial

## So WHAT CAN PERIOPERATIVE TEAMS DO TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

- ❖ Recycling our waste into 3 categories:
  - \*Regulated medical waste
  - \*Non-regulated recyclable medical waste
  - \*Non-regulated non-recyclable waste

### Green Garbage Bag - Recycle



### Clear Garbage Bag



### Red Garbage Bag

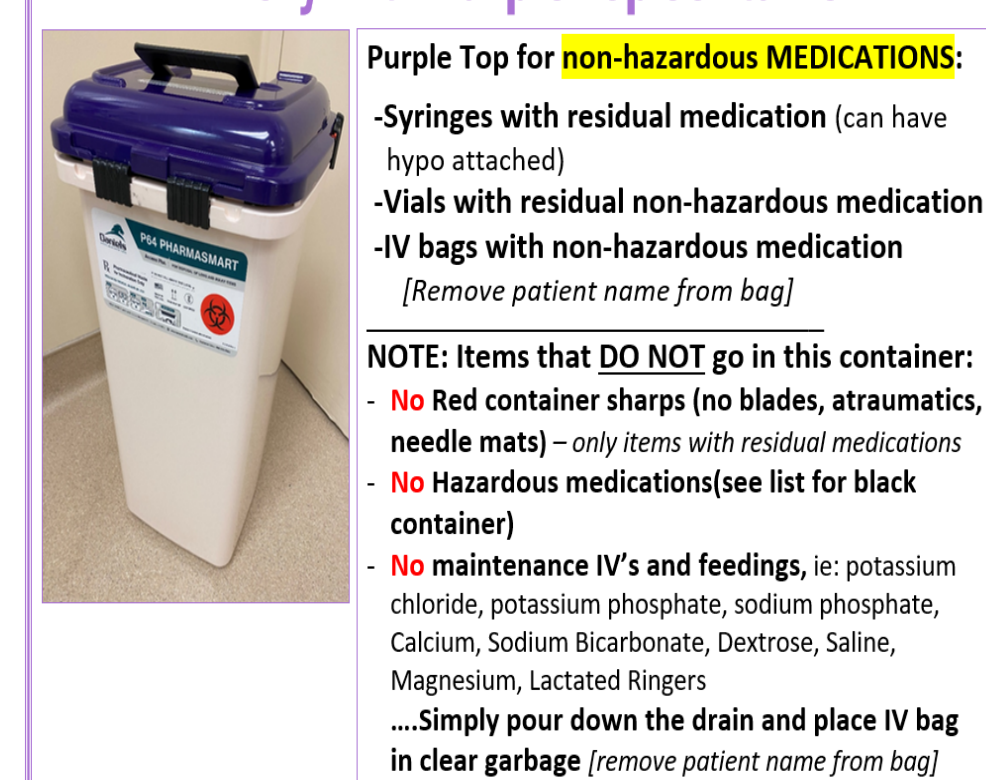


### Batteries

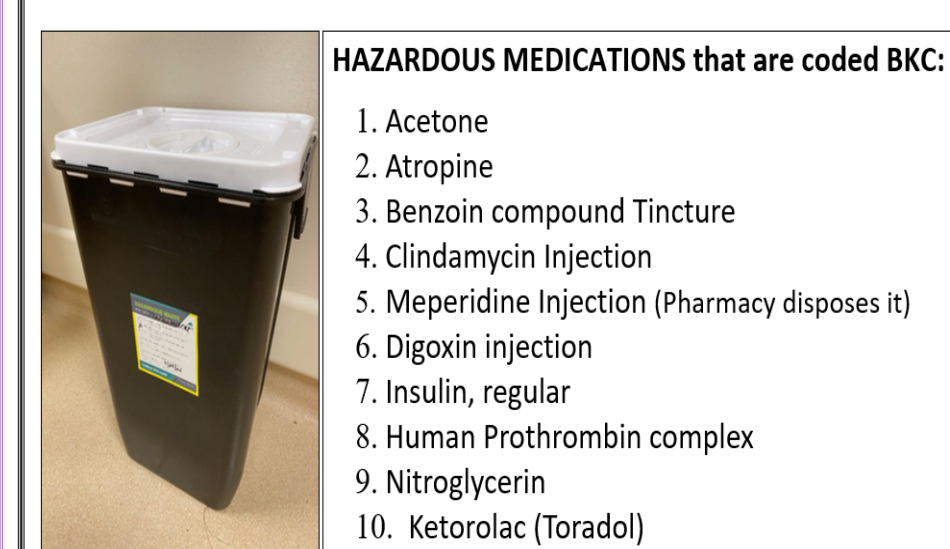


Pharmaceutical waste recycling is imperative for diverting hazards from our waterways and protecting marine life

### Ivory with Purple Top Container



### Black Container



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT FOR SAFETY?



Large items that can alternatively be recycled have poked holes through garbage, which could cause harm to team members



Sharps containers should only house sharps. These are actual discoveries found in sharps containers when rounding. This is a safety issue – the covers of the sharps containers have been removed to accommodate. It additionally affects finances.

## WHAT ABOUT FINANCES?

### DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD SAVE MONEY BY REPROCESSING?

- ❖ Partnering with vendors for recycling/reprocessing of single-use disposable instruments and items is strategic for cost-savings initiatives
- ❖ Negotiating of contracts helps ensure adequate supply and financial return

December Savings = \$16,197  
2022 Savings year to date = \$222,622



### RECYCLING CAN ALSO HELP WITH THE CURRENT BACKORDER ISSUES WITH CERTAIN ITEMS

For example, single-use tourniquets, which are on a current backorder, are reprocessed and everything we give back to the company is returned sterile for use at a reduced cost.



### WHAT IS PLACED IN OUR RECYCLING CONTAINERS?

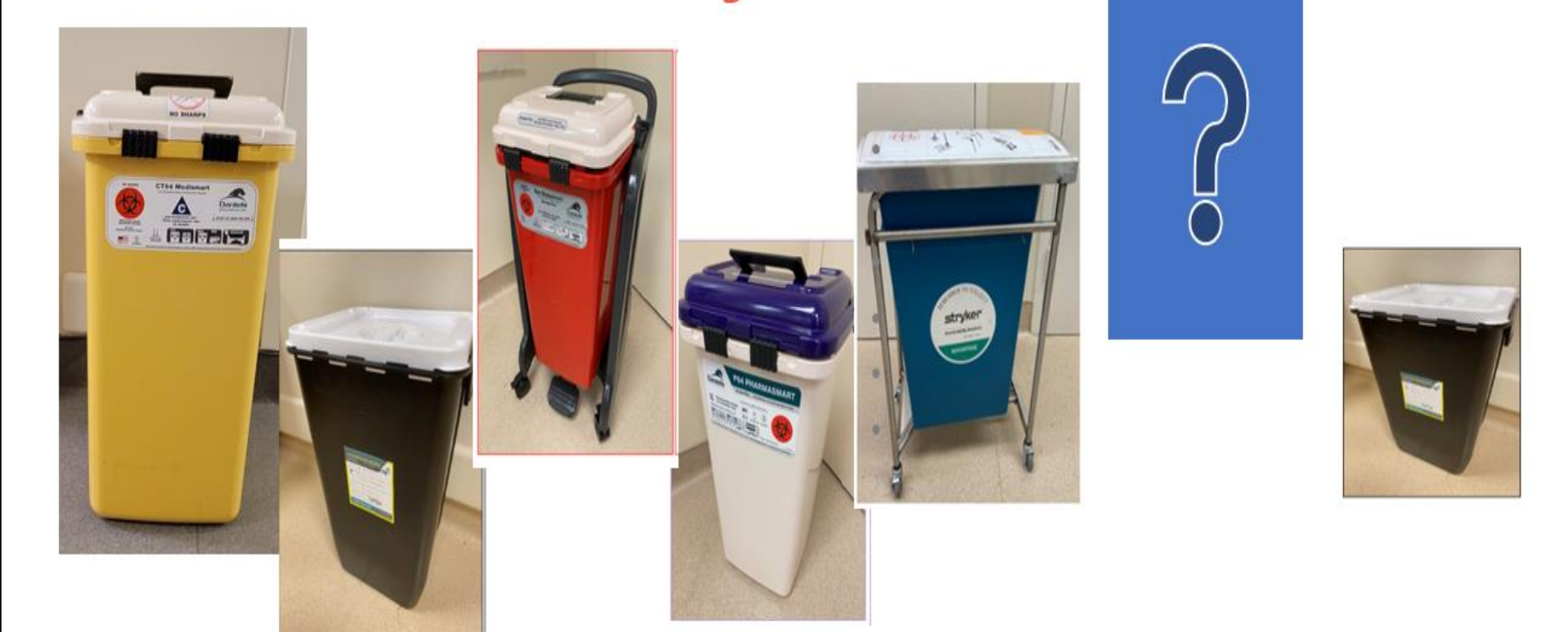
- ❖ Shavers
- ❖ Burrs
- ❖ Wands
- ❖ Laparoscopic devices
- ❖ Cautery devices
- ❖ Trocars
- ❖ Staplers
- ❖ Long robotic instruments
- ❖ Hazardous medications
- ❖ Non-hazardous medications
- ❖ batteries

## LEADERSHIP AND PHYSICIAN BUY-IN IS A MUST!

This initiative would not be possible without the support from interdisciplinary leaders.

ENGAGE PERIOPERATIVE STAFF MEMBERS THROUGH SHARED GOVERNANCE AND EDUCATE!  
Get front line staff involved

## Where in the world do I put my garbage after my case?



OUR RECYCLING EFFORTS HAVE HELPED US WIN 5 GREENING THE OR RECOGNITION AWARDS SINCE 2016!



## REFERENCES

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Blough, Christian L. BS<sup>1</sup>·a; Karsh, Kaylee J. BS<sup>2</sup>. What's Important: Operating Room Waste: Why We Should Care. The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery 103(9):p 837-839, May 5, 2021. | DOI: 10.2106/JBJS.20.01816  
<https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/greening-operating-room/greening-or>

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