Promoting safer disinfectants in the healthcare sector

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Speakers

**Manfred Klade**  
PhD Chemist and Environmental Engineer - Bureau for Chemical Engineering TB-Klade

**Anders Bolmstedt**  
Phd Chemist - Region Västra Götaland, Sweden.  
Chair of the Board – HCWH Europe

**Jessica Ikonen**  
Infection Prevention and Control Nurse - Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden

**Arianna Gamba**  
Procurement Policy and Projects Officer – HCWH Europe
About HCWH Europe

- A **non-profit membership organisation** of European hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions, and environmental and health organisations.

- **Bringing the voice of healthcare professionals** to the European policy debate about key issues, such as: chemicals, climate change and health, sustainable procurement, pharmaceuticals, sustainable food.

- **Educating the healthcare sector** to understand the importance of the environment and press healthcare leaders and professionals to advocate for broader societal policies and changes.
HCWH Europe Programmes

- Safer Pharma
- Climate-smart Healthcare
- Sustainable Food
- Safer Chemicals
- Sustainable Procurement
Global Green and healthy Hospitals (GGHH) is an international network of:

- Hospitals
- Healthcare facilities
- Health systems
- Health organisations

Members are dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health.
SAICM 2.0: Project objectives

- Reduce emissions of hazardous substances into the environment; to support implementation of the WHO Chemicals Roadmap and UN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process
- Promote the use of safer and more environmentally friendly disinfectants without compromising hygienic and occupational health standards
- Produce case studies, materials and tools that will help procurers and users make better purchasing decisions
- Analyse procurement practices of surveyed hospitals, assess the hazard potential of products used, and propose less hazardous alternatives
- Identify potential barriers to adopt products with low hazard potential
Engagement was in the form of a survey/interview, and a subsequent benchmarking of disinfectant products.

All participants will receive a compact analysis of their hazard profiles for disinfectants used at their institutions, as well as the estimated potential to substitute these products.

These benefits come in the form of the reports, guides, webinars, and a workshop that will be produced during the project.

Available in five languages, the survey was conducted Jan - Apr 2019.
Survey participants

Location

- North America: 39
- Asia: 10
- Europe: 12
- Africa: 15
- Spanish-speaking South America: 8
- Brazil: 3

Position/Department

- Clinicians: 2%
- Occupational Health: 9%
- Facility or Operations Managers: 10%
- Procurement: 16%
- Infection Prevention & Control: 22%
- Environmental Protection: 26%

Years of experience

- less than 3: 11%
- 3 to 10: 30%
- more than 10: 59%
## Level of awareness

- The majority of respondents consult the disinfectant safety data sheet (SDS) either always (73%) or at least occasionally (20%).

- Do you believe the use of disinfectants in your organisation poses a hazard to the human health and/or the environment?

  - **No**: 22%
  - **Partially**: 47%
  - **Yes**: 31%

- Does your organisation use the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) classification?

  - **No**: 22%
  - **Yes**: 42%
  - **I am not aware of GHS**: 36%
Sustainable Procurement

- Only 35% of the organisations include sustainable procurement criteria in the overall procurement process.
- Half the participating organisations (52%) do not conduct evaluation reports on implementing sustainable procurement policy.
- 66% of hospitals conduct market research or contact potential providers prior to tendering of disinfectants.
- In more than half of the hospitals (59%) employees are responsible for Occupational Health and Environmental Protection and are involved in procurement processes.
Application and disposal

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- 51% have identified areas where disinfectant use can be minimised or eliminated
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- Who performs disinfection?

  - Internal staff: 52%
  - External service: 8%
  - Both: 40%

- Are there waste management protocols for disinfectants?

  - No: 24%
  - Yes: 66%
  - I don't know: 10%
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- Hospitals that provide tools and guidance to reduce disinfectants' hazard to...
  - Human health: 61%
  - The environment: 54%