

Position Statement:

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

The goal of Premier's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Program is to assist the healthcare industry's effort in supporting products that contribute positively to patient, staff, community and environmental health. EPP encompasses products and/or services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to competing products and/or services. These include products that contain fewer or zero chemicals of concern, are made or packaged with recycled content, are recyclable and/or reusable, and produce safer and/or reduced waste.

Premier will:

General

- Solicit input and work with member hospitals to stay current with health system needs in this space.
- Maintain an ongoing review of laws, regulations and guidelines that impact the healthcare environment in order to systematically evaluate products and services in light of environmentally preferred purchasing principles.

Contracting/Sourcing

- Collaborate with market leaders who have a documented agenda for developing products that support patient, staff, community and environmental health.
- Select suppliers that promote products that minimize or eliminate chemicals of concern, as defined by federal, state and municipal agencies, and industry leaders in environmentally preferred purchasing.
- Include environmental criteria or questions in Requests for Proposals, as appropriate.
- Communicate the desire for products that support patient, staff, community and environmental health to suppliers by (i) addressing EPP in scheduled meetings and (ii) working in partnership to identify options and alternative products/designs that are environmentally preferred.

Assist Members

- Assist members in the identification of environmentally preferable products under contract to meet member goals around environmentally preferred purchasing.
- Provide product level environmental health data to member facilities to support products or services that contribute to a healthier environment for patients, staff and communities.
- Make informational resources available to its members to reinforce the importance of the environmental, public health and worker safety issues related to the products and services offered.

Reuse of Single-Use Devices

- Understand that some Premier members have policies that call for the reprocessing of certain medical devices that are labeled as single-use devices (SUDs) by the device manufacturers. Decisions regarding reuse of single-use medical devices are solely the decision of the member healthcare facility.
- Recognize the implementation and enforcement of the FDA requirements on reuse of SUDs that apply the existing regulations equally to original equipment manufacturers, third party reproducers and hospitals in an effort to reduce risks associated with reuse.
- To the extent a Premier member's policies regarding the reuse of SUDs raise issues concerning Premier's group purchasing policies, will use commercially reasonable efforts to help resolve such issues.