



Environmental Contributions Through Reprocessing & Recycling

As the leading reprocessor of medical devices for hospitals throughout North America, Ascent Healthcare Solutions is committed to assisting hospitals and healthcare providers with reducing waste in their operations. While our primary contribution to this mission involves lowering supply costs for our partners through reprocessing, our services also help reduce their impact on our environment by recycling the majority of items we cannot reprocess for reuse. Ascent's partners use our reprocessing and recycling services as a cornerstone of their environmental initiative, such as **Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)** and their mission to reduce hospital waste.

Ascent uses specially designed and designated collection systems to capture medical devices in many different clinical settings. When these containers are received at our processing facility their contents are decontaminated and sanitized according to approved processes. Once sorted, reprocessable devices are placed through an FDA-cleared process that restores the devices to original specifications so they may be used one more time. Devices that cannot be reprocessed, either due to obvious functional reasons or because they are not approved for reprocessing, are recycled. Ascent contracts with third-party recycling companies to guarantee the most extensive use of recyclable materials and components. MediCycle in Phoenix and DHS (Diversified Recycling Services) in Florida provide these services for Ascent. The majority of rejected

medical devices are composed of series 300/400 stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, polycarbonate and polyurethanes, all of which are highly recyclable. The only items that cannot be recycled are blue wrap, plastic and paper packaging materials, glass (vials), needle, suture, razors, medication or extremely soiled devices that cannot be disinfected.

The process is quite simple. After removing all the reprocessable devices, the remaining devices are sent to one of our recycling partners. The devices are sorted and dismantled into the component parts based upon material type. Plastics, metals and polymers are separated into individual batches. Metals are shredded and plastics are reground, or "pelletized," and sold to manufacturers of non-medical-grade items.

Precious metals are captured and treated a bit differently. These include platinum from EP catheters, silver from X-Ray films and gold from other medical devices. (Ascent's rebate program for EP catheters provides monetary compensation for any non-reprocessable or rejected EP catheter.) These materials are separated, treated and placed with specialty vendors who use the metals in the manufacture of other items.

When all reprocessing and recycling is complete, Ascent has removed 95+% of all collected devices and their materials from the local landfills of our hospital partners and in some cases provided a financial windfall that can amount to thousands of dollars annually that was otherwise un-recovered.

At Ascent, we continue to seek and invest in methods, practices and new services that not only support our healthcare partners' financial goals, but their environmental missions as well.



MORE
safety
services
savings



LESS
expense
waste
environmental impact

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