Cost-benefit analysis framework for single-use disposable versus reusable medical devices

Single-use disposable alternatives are now available for most categories of medical devices that were traditionally reprocessed (cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilised).

Your practice’s policy on whether to use disposable or reusable medical devices could be determined based on a thorough analysis of factors including risk of contamination and costs (including labour for reprocessing, as well as unit costs), and optimal use of staff time. The [cost-benefit analysis framework for single-use disposable versus reusable medical devices](#costben) below can be used for this purpose.

This template is drawn from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners *Infection prevention and control guidelines for general practices and other office-based and community-based practices*. Refer to [Section 10 – Reprocessing reusable medical devices](https://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-standards/racgp-infection-prevention-and-control-guidelines/10-reprocessing-reusable-medical-devices/overview) of the guidelines for more information.

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and seas on which we work and live, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future.

Insert practice name here.

Cost-benefit analysis framework for single-use disposable versus reusable medical devices

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Number used (per day/week) | Options | Unit cost | Waste | Associated costs | Labour costs | Power and water | Maintenance (steriliser etc) |
| Ear speculum |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ear syringe/pulse/suction and parts |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sterile vaginal speculum |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dressing pack with forceps |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spacer |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Artery forceps |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forceps |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scissors |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Excision sets |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scalpel handles |  | Disposable |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Reusable |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Waste: include waste removal costs   
Associated costs: include consumables, materials used in packaging for sterilisation, other steriliser-associated costs  
Labour costs: Include staff time performing reprocessing tasks, supervisor time training staff, costs of training courses

Source: Marjen Education Services. Adapted with permission.