

A WASTED OPPORTUNITY

RELOCATING CONSUMABLES TO REDUCE WASTE PRODUCTS

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Why We Started?



- High consumable usage in ICU → high cost
- Previous Cleaning Policy
 - Amber Clean for all discharges (discard vs cleaning packages of all unused unopened consumables)
 - High turnover of patients = High waste of unopened consumables

Identified as an area to challenge existing practice for improvement



Aim

- Reduce waste and cost
- Promote sustainable ICU practice
- Maintain infection control standards
- Improve efficiency

Step 1: PACE Pilot

- A shared trolley for PACE (Post Anesthetic Care Environment) short stay patients
- One trolley stocked outside
 - Shared by 4 patients
- Audited quantity of consumables left in rooms upon discharge
- Contacted manufacturer re: cleaning packaging



Findings from Pilot



Manufacturer: Recommendation not to wipe down packaging (risk to sterility)



All consumables to be discarded under Amber clean policy



Calculation: Consumable per patient → median → annual admission data



£11,000 of estimated annual savings if trolley introduced (PACE only)

Step 2: Policy Change

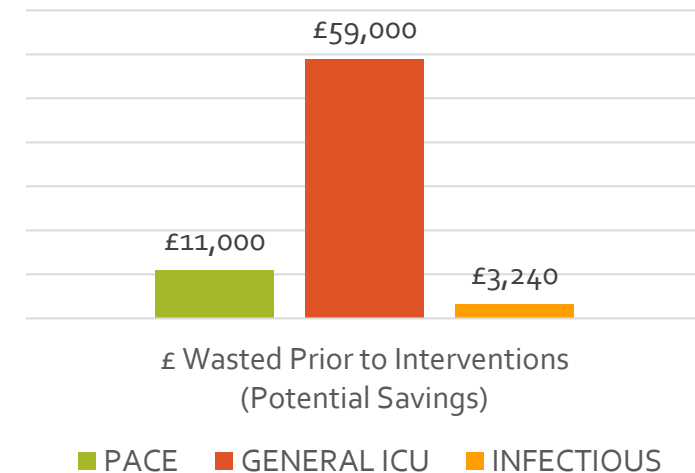
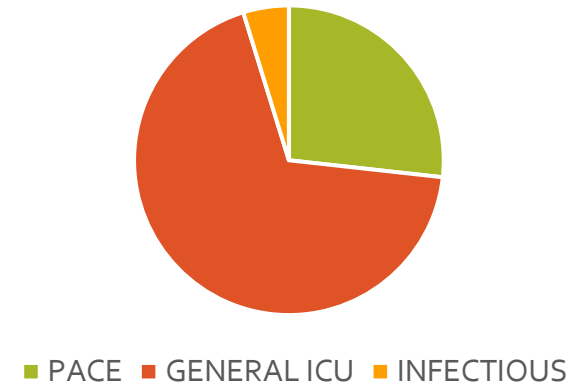
- Findings presented to Infection Control and ICU Divisional Leads
- Policy reviewed and changed
 - Green clean introduced for all non-infectious patients
 - Unopened consumables no longer required to be discarded
- Practice challenged → Policy improved



Step 3: ICU Implementation

- Expanded audit across all ICU discharges
- Measured waste reduction under new Green clean policy
- PACE Savings = £11,000
- Entire ICU Savings = £59,000

Number of Patients



Future Steps



- Infectious patients still require Amber / Red cleans → risk of unnecessary waste remains
- A bedspace preparation checklist for stocking rooms initiated
- Plan to audit consumables remaining in infectious rooms post checklist implementation

Key Messages



Challenging established practice can lead to improvement and policy change



Small projects = Big impact



Improved sustainability → A greener ICU practice *is* possible



Debate for infectious patients: safety vs sustainability vs waste reduction



Aknowledgements

- ICU Nursing & AHP Team
- NBT Trust
- Infection Control & Prevention
- Divisional Nursing Leadership
- Quality Improvement Lead Consultant



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
ANY QUESTIONS?**
