



Proposal: Adoption of Stryker's Sustainability Solutions Program

Prepared for: Health Sciences North, Surgical Program- OR Committee

Prepared by: CQI Manager, Perioperative Services
Clinical Manager, Operating Room

Date: October 29th, 2025

Hospitals are continuously faced with challenges to reduce operational costs, lessen environmental impact, and maintain the highest level of patient care. Stryker's Sustainability Solutions (SSS) program offers a proven; Health Canada approved means of reducing operational costs and the environmental impact from waste generated in the Operating Room (OR). The SSS program safely reprocesses and re-builds commonly used single-use medical devices, namely the Ligasure, laparoscopic trocars (Optiview and 5mm), and sequential compression (SCD) sleeves. Health Sciences North (HSN) will consider participation in this program based on the proven clinical efficacy of the re-built products, the financial savings, and the positive environmental impacts of the program.

To date, HSN's participation in the program has been as a 'donor' site. Through partnerships with our Environmental Service department and Stryker, we have switched out the yellow Daniel's sharps containers within our OR's and replaced them with green colored bins at no added cost. In fact, the cost is already reduced as HSN no longer pays to discard the green sharps containers; Stryker assumes full responsibility of the green sharps' containers and the associated disposal costs. Being a 'donor' site allows Stryker to collect and sort medical waste from sharps containers, collecting some items for their program. Having transitioned 60% of the large yellow sharps' containers used in the OR to Stryker's green sharps containers, HSN is diverting waste from the landfill and saving money on our waste management budget of approximately \$xx,xxx annually in container costs.

Full Participation in Stryker's program will enable the Surgical Program to save an excess of \$xxx k annually through on average a 40% decrease in the cost of switching to the re-built devices. (Link to cost saving analysis inserted here)

Many reputable organizations across Ontario have been participating in the SSS program for many years (i.e., McMaster, St. Michael's, Sunnybrook, Humber River, Windsor Regional, Michael Garron, St. Joe's, and many others). When asked to share their experiences about this program, they all declared similar experiences; no concerns with quality and products performed as expected intra-operatively. The technical effectiveness of the Ligasure was reported to be 'excellent' with one general surgeon stating 'one cannot tell the difference between the original product and the re-built Stryker product'. A leading organization (name removed for privacy) shared "*Our Stryker Sustainability Program has performed exceedingly well as we have driven \$xx,xxx in budgetary savings since it was started on June 2024, which is a great result. This is derived from utilizing 1,968 devices, creating \$xx,xxx in*

perioperative savings, while collecting 49 green bins, diverting 756 lbs. of waste, creating an additional \$x,xxx in waste removal savings.” The outside organizations engaged for feedback also reported excellent business relations with Stryker regarding the support received. The products are backed by a full warranty and guarantee that if any device is deemed inadequate for surgical use it will be replaced free of charge. Trials of the Stryker products at HSN occurred the week of August 11th, 2025 with clinical acceptance of the products reported from our surgeons. (Insert link to data from surgeon feedback here)

Stryker adheres to guidelines for reprocessing and remanufacturing, removing any safety concern for our patients from an infection prevention lens. As well, Stryker completes quality testing on all re-built devices, not just in batch quantities, increasing trust that the product provided to our surgeons and patients will be of high quality. All devices are fully function tested ensuring full functionality & conformity.

Furthermore, keeping in line with HSN’s strategic goal to strengthen organizational sustainability, the SSS program will contribute to this objective by increasing green cost savings and positioning HSN to claim more action towards sustainable healthcare. The Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network with Ontario Health requests annual reporting of hospitals’ sustainability initiatives, specifically using the CASCADES Sustainable Perioperative Care Scorecard created with the University of Toronto. Participation in the SSS program will give HSN a new achievement to report in our efforts at lessening our carbon footprint. Stryker has proven that by using set routes with UPS and controlled water consumption, the carbon footprint of an SSS product is more environmentally sustainable than original manufactured products. As well, packaging is made of recycled paper and plastics and printed using soya ink. Combined with diverting waste from local landfill sites, this offers a desirable opportunity to combine cost savings and environmental sustainability.

It is recommended that the Operating Room Committee endorse HSN’s participation in Stryker’s Sustainable Solutions Program as it offers the organization a practical, proven method to reduce operational costs, support environmental goals and promote a culture of sustainability with a potential annual savings over \$xxx k. During the transition, both products will remain on the shelves. In order for HSN to achieve these savings, we will have to use 95% of these products from Stryker.