How Sustainability Initiative Will Improve Patient Care and Outcomes

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**A brief analysis of the sustainability initiative**

Device reprocessing is the sustainability initiative that has been selected for this project. The term ‘device reprocessing' may also be referred to as a 'Single-use medical device reprocessing.' It is a process that involves cleaning, disinfecting, remanufacturing, and repackaging of medical devices that have been used or those that have been broken from their packaging but not used (Chadwick et al., 2014). The primary intention is to make sure that an organization efficiently uses available resources without compromising the quality of care services. It is important to note that while it is not advisable to reuse medical devices, there are some of them that can be reprocessed and reused without putting the lives of patients at risk or compromising on the quality of care services.

*How will this initiative improve patient care and outcomes?*

There are several ways in which device reprocessing is likely to have benefits to patient care and improve patient outcomes. One of the ways in which this initiative will improve the quality of care and improve patient outcomes is that many patients will be attended to effectively with the little resources available. One of the main challenges facing many healthcare organizations is the inadequacy of resources. There are many instances where healthcare organizations are so pressed that they cannot offer services to some of their clients because there are no resources (Sheffield, 2012). For example, when a medical care organization runs out of syringes, it becomes very difficult to give injections or perform other medical procedures that will require blood being withdrawn from the patient. It is shameful that a healthcare organization cannot execute its responsibilities because it does not have the resources. By reprocessing and reusing devices such as syringes, an organization gets into a position where it can offer high-quality medical care services without compromising the safety of patients.

Another way through which device reprocessing may be beneficial to the quality of care and care outcomes is that it makes it possible for healthcare organizations to offer affordable care services to patients. It is important to note that the high costs of medical equipment always play an important role in increasing the costs of medical care services. By reprocessing and reusing the various medical devices, the organizations are capable of reducing the costs of medical equipment by more than half, and these benefits trickle down to the consumers. Thus, in many cases, patients experience a tremendous decrease in the costs of medical services, and this makes medical services affordable.

Finally, reprocessing plays an important role in environmental conservation, for the good of both the hospital and the patients. Medical waste disposal is one of the most significant challenges facing many organizations. The inability of the hospital to effectively take care of the medical waste products affects not only the physical environment of the healthcare organization but also the well-being of patients. There are many instances where patients have been hurt by medical waste items that have not been stored properly in the medical organization. Thus, it is incredibly importantly important to make sure that there are ways that will reduce the interaction between the medical equipment and the patients.

*List of patient services that the initiative will improve*

The application of this strategy is likely to have many benefits to various aspects of medical care practices. The following is a list of some the services that will be improved by the application of the reprocessing strategy;

* Diagnostic services; many of the tools and equipment that are used in diagnostic services are capable of being reprocessed. The initiative will make sure that the diagnostic tools are always available for use at affordable costs.
* Treatment services; the initiative will make sure that there are effective treatment processes in healthcare organizations.
* Surgical services; many tools and equipment used in surgical procedures can be reprocessed and reused without compromising quality and safety.

References

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