

For Immediate Release

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Encompass Group, LLC Offers Innovations in Reusable OR Textiles

McDonough, GA—(2015)—Through a partnership with Canadian based Lac-Mac, Encompass Group, LLC is now offering significant innovations in reusable OR gowns and drapes here in the U.S.

Paragon Style Level 4 Surgical Gowns are uniquely designed and incorporate R-MOR-Tex® Liquid-Proof Barrier Fabric in critical zones and features a distinct neckline that wicks away moisture and eliminates chafing and also helps set it apart from competitive products. Lac-Mac has an Industrial Design Patent in both Canada and the U.S. for this revolutionary gown.

The Lac-Mac reusable pouch drape is the only reusable drape pouch system on the market today and the liquid-proof pouch can be incorporated into any of the Lac-Mac fenestrated drape products. Another new innovative product is the reusable drape with disposable insert. This drape offers an opportunity for facilities currently using disposable drapes an easy way to transition into reusables. The concept means only one drape can be used as a multi-purpose procedural drape simply by changing the insert.

The OR is the biggest user of medical supplies in any facility. The decision to use disposable or reusable gowns, drapes, and mayo covers can impact cost, infection control, and staff comfort.

“In selecting drapes and gowns for a facility’s OR, there are four major considerations: safety, comfort, control of healthcare acquired infections, and cost,” said Janice Larson, managing director for Clinical Resources and Consulting at Encompass Group, LLC. “All OR drapes and gowns are considered by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be medical devices, and as such are held to AAMI and ANSI standards for protection against fluids and pathogens.

“There are four levels of barrier performance, from level 1 (the lowest) to level 4 (the highest). OSHA and CDC also have requirements for protective barriers. Disposable items must meet these performance standards for a single use. Reusable items must pass the tests to the end of its reuse cycle, typically 50 to 75 uses.”

A 2010 study in the ORs of two large hospitals in the Washington, D.C. area found that most surgeons preferred the reusable healthcare textiles, at levels 2 and 3, for shorter procedures. For longer procedures, almost all the OR personnel rated the reusable level 4 gowns with breathable laminates more comfortable. 86% of the participants rated the comfort of the reusable gowns as superior. The ease of use for reusables was rated superior by 87% of those surveyed.

And, with the growing trend toward the “greening” of the OR, new technologies in reusable gowns and drapes can meet the need for cost savings while supporting environmental initiatives. For each one of a reusable surgical gown’s life cycles, the equivalent disposable product would generate mounds of landfill. Microbes do not recognize polyethylene as a food source and therefore they do not participate in breaking it down, which means it will be there for a long time.

Encompass Group, LLC is proud to partner with Lac-Mac to offer the latest in reusable OR gowns and drapes providing superior protection for the surgical team, the patient, and the environment.

About Encompass Group

Encompass is one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of reusable textiles, professional apparel, and disposable and single use medical products. Encompass believes that every patient, resident, caregiver, and family member should feel Safe and Comfortable in today's healthcare environments.

The way Encompass enhances the healthcare experience is by developing innovative products that are reliably delivered and cost effective for all providers.

Encompass is a privately held company headquartered in McDonough, Georgia. Markets served include Acute Care, Long-Term Care/Senior Care, Retail Health Care Apparel, Hospitality, and Government Operations.

For more information, please visit www.encompassgroup.net, email info@encompassgroup.net, or call at (800) 284-4540.

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