As the international healthcare community works together to implement environmentally friendly initiatives, informed populations are seeking responsible alternatives to disposable incontinence care products.

With companies in every industry endeavoring to be more socially responsible, particularly with regard to the environment, MIP is working hard to help decrease overall linen consumption, and ultimately reduce waste so that healthcare facilities nationwide can more easily meet EPA waste reduction standards. Reusable underpads can dramatically reduce the quantity of bed pads piling up in landfills across the country.

Adopting reusable underpads not only contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of your facility, but also contributes to reducing the costs associated with disposing of medical waste. Practicing the three principles of waste management (reduce, reuse, recycle) ensures that your facility is taking a proactive approach to environmental and social responsibility.

Reusable underpads – the Rx for reducing medical waste!
What are they?
Pressure ulcers are injuries resulting from extended pressure interrupting blood flow to the skin, causing problems ranging from discoloration, loss of sensation and scarring to full-thickness skin loss and soft tissue damage.

How do they occur?
Pressure ulcers can result from pressure alone (when the skin is compressed between the bone and another surface, i.e.: mattress), or the combination of pressure and friction or shear. The layering of multiple incontinence products may also create additional pressure points that lead to ulceration.

Who is at risk?
Who is at risk? One estimate? 7% of all hospital patients are at risk of suffering from pressure ulcers over the course of their stay, the most vulnerable being:
- Older patients
- Patients who are bedridden for more than 2 days
- Patients with impaired circulation
- Patients who remain in moisture-soaked linens for long periods of time
- Patients who are not moved regularly
- Patients using harsh soaps or moisturizers that dry out the skin
- Patients whose heads are raised above a 30-degree angle (causes sliding and skin damage)
- Dehydrated patients

How can they be prevented?
Pressure ulcers are easier to prevent than to heal. Some useful steps may include:
- Encouraging the frequent intake of fluids
- Using pillows or other pressure-reducing devices to remove pressure from key points (heels, sacrum, trochanters, etc.)
- Using mild soaps and moisturizers
- Checking skin daily for discoloration
- Avoiding exposure to cold or dry air
- Unless contrary to the advice of a healthcare professional, ensuring the head of the bed is raised as little (no more than 30 degrees) and for as short a period as possible
- Minimizing moisture buildup due to incontinence using a quick-drying, highly absorbent underpad

PREVENTION TIPS
- Use pillows, cushions, or overlays to reposition patients
- Keep sheets and pillows clean and dry
- Avoid friction or shear
- Keep skin clean and dry
- Encourage fluid intake
- Encourage mobility
- Use pressure-reducing devices

PRESSURE ULCERS – The Whole Story

DERMACARE UNDERPADS – First in Patient Care

DERMACARE, a high quality reusable patient care underpad, will help protect your patients and your linen. The usable area of a disposable is on average 89% less than that of DermaCare, which means you will need at least 1.5 disposables to match the protection periodically only one DermaCare underpad.

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Pressure Mapping
Every layer of linen on a hospital bed should be designed to promote skin care and patient comfort. Using DermaCare, a thin profile bedside underpad, will not affect the performance of a pressure redistribution mattress. The underpad will work in concert with the efforts of the specialty surface.

Reusables - Hospital-tested, Cost-effective Care

Incontinence care can be costly, but reusable underpads can dramatically reduce its financial impact on your facility. Implementing the use of reusable pads that are more absorbent, washable and more durable can considerably reduce capital and storage costs.

DERMACARE Reusable Pads
Sounded Construction
- Multi-layered composition allows air to circulate
- Virtually eliminates shrinkage
- Eliminates movement between layers
- Reduces pooling
- Lays completely flat without bunching
- This profile won’t affect performance of pressure redistribution mattress

Wound disposable for 3 months and was back in reusable underpads for most patients by twice demand.

Disposable Pads

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MONTHLY COST COMPARISON FOR REUSABLE VS. DISPOSABLE PADS

$10,000

$5,000

$0

DEC. 2007

DEC. 2008

JAN. 2008

Disposables - The Hidden Costs
- Several underpads per bed often used
- Frequent bed changes due to smaller surface area
- Closer monitoring required
- Costly disposal (landfill)

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