



Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital switches to Reusable Gowns.

Elis partner with Liverpool for the supply and reprocessing of surgical gowns.

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is a twice outstanding rated specialist heart and chest hospital located in the suburb of Broadgreen in Merseyside. It serves a catchment area of 2.8 million people also spanning Cheshire, North Wales and the Isle of Man, and increasingly receives referrals from outside these areas.

Specialist services provided by the hospital include cardiothoracic surgery, cardiology and respiratory medicine, including adult cystic fibrosis and diagnostic imaging both on-site and out in the community. During the Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain availability issues and concerns regarding the volume of clinical waste generated by single-use gowns led the Trust to adopt a more sustainable approach to surgical textiles.

Following discussions with other healthcare providers in the region, it took the decision to undertake a trial of reusable gowns. The two-week trial was carried out during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic and was led by Theatre Business Manager Michael Bailey and Theatre Matron Yvonne Heslop. As part of this, each clinician was supplied with an Elis reusable gown to trial and invited to supply feedback.

Results from the trial were positive, with users reporting high levels of satisfaction around product performance and quality. Following this, the widespread roll-out of reusable gowns to theatres across the Trust was successfully implemented in April.

Theatre Business Manager Michael Bailey comments: “As well as helping to ensure continuity of supply, the reusable gowns are expected to deliver considerable financial and environmental savings. The forecasted reduction in clinical

waste is approximately 8 tonnes per year, resulting in an annual saving of around £3,000.00. This represents an overall saving of 22% on previous disposable products, while enabling the Trust to operate more sustainably”.

Mark Holmes, Account Director (Healthcare) for Elis, says: “The switch from disposable to reusable products has had benefits for Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust more ways than one, and we are delighted that they have chosen to partner with Elis for the supply and reprocessing of surgical gowns.”

Chris Blaylock, Elis Customer Relationship Manager adds: “A six-week mobilisation timetable enabled us to facilitate a smooth roll-out of the products throughout the Trust. As a result, the required stock was delivered and stored with plenty of time for staff to familiarise themselves with the items they would be using.”

