



Stockport switches from single-use to multi-use

Helping Stockport NHS
Foundation Trust to make
the move from single use to
multi-use surgical textiles.

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services for people across Stockport and the High Peak. Its main hospital is Stepping Hill, which treats over 500,000 patients per year.

Many of the Trust's services, are highly-rated nationally, and it also runs one of the largest orthopaedic services in the country. It approached Elis prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic seeking to improve cost-efficiency and improve its carbon footprint by reducing the volume of clinical waste generated.

Business Manager, Bob Unwin had first-hand experience of our products from a previous Trust, and had no hesitation in contacting Elis to facilitate the shift from single-use to multi-use surgical textiles across all departments. He comments: "Over recent months, a number of other Trusts have made the switch from disposable to multi-use products out of necessity. However, this was something we had already initiated prior to the outbreak of Coronavirus, it proved to be an excellent move as it got us through the national shortage of PPE and avoided the price increases seen on single use.

"The team at Elis were able to successfully implement the roll-out of multi-use products during the first wave of the pandemic. We are pleased with the outcome. Many of our consultants and staff have responded positively to the switch, and we have benefited from cost savings due to the fact we are able to reclaim VAT on these reusable products."

The switch to multi-use has also helped the Trust reduce its impact on the environment, saving over 5 tonnes of clinical waste from incineration in the first 6 months. Across a year, it is estimated this will equate to enough energy to power over 6,000 street lights for a night, or the equivalent weight of 11 average-sized cars.

Mark Holmes, Account Director – Healthcare – at Elis, says: "As part of the roll-out, we provided a show and tell day to educate staff about our products. We also ran an initial trial, providing us with an opportunity to collate feedback.

"During the trial, our multi-use gowns and handtowels were used in various theatres, as well as eye and maternity centres. One hundred and thirty-eight staff took part, with 92 per cent providing feedback. Ninety-four per cent surveyed found our gowns clinically acceptable, with 96 per cent stating that they provided excellent or satisfactory protection levels.

"Ease of opening the packaging and putting on the gowns, as well as the sizing of them, also ranked high. These are great results, and this was a really valuable exercise which has given us an opportunity to refine our offer and provide additional training where required to further enhance satisfaction levels."

