

# Recycling the Blues

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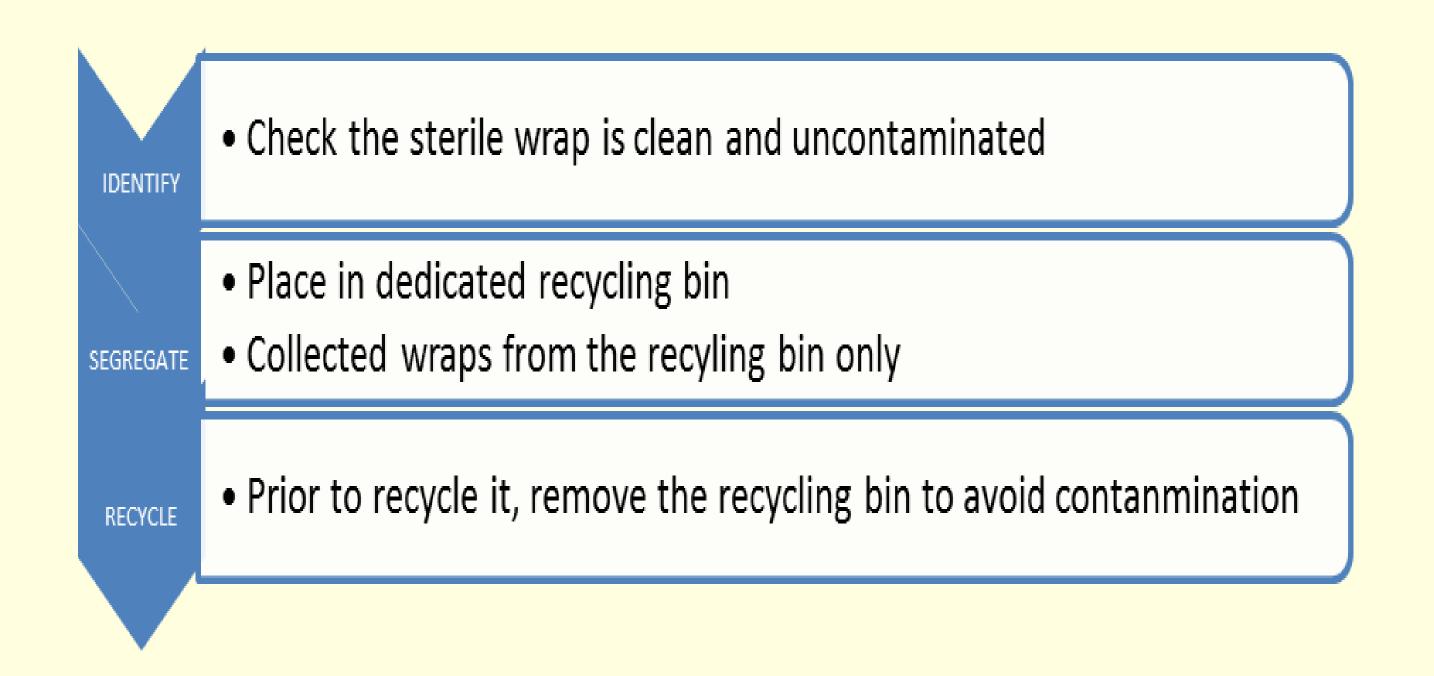


## **BACKGROUND**

The project was carried out in Day Surgery Centre (DSC) and Dental Department, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. The team aims to cultivate the concept of recycling and secondary to improve cost savings. The team also aims to explore recycling efforts, options and management of the current paper waste in DSC.

## **METHOD**

The second layer of the double layered sterile packs in DSC which are of high water repellent quality, is used to replace the disposable napkins used in dental procedures in the clinic. Recycling bins for the paper wraps and plastic wraps are now located at all scrub area. Staffs are briefed at roll call on the collection process.



Blue wrap collected by OR staffs clears the blue wrap to staffs daily

Dental Clinic staff collects the blue wrap to staffs daily

wrap weekly

**Process of Segregation** 

**Collection Process** 

## **RESULTS**

All staff including clinicians are supportive towards creating a green awareness. This concept is now used as dental napkins in the dental clinic. These reusable materials, will now be recycled through the "take-back system". As these blue wraps have no contact with any other biological materials, they are classified under non-hazardous waste.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

This initiative will potentially be able to divert huge amounts of waste from the landfill annually. With the support from all the local healthcare institutions, there will be potential cost-savings without having to engage a local contractor for dumping services.

#### SUSTAINABILITY

The collection of the wraps is followed up by the Dental clinic in-charge and the OR in-charge. A tracking process is planned to motivate staffs based on the number of recycled wraps or products. The team will explore to expand this green project to other departments.

#### CONCLUSION

The new out-of-the-box concept will be able to bring a significant change in the use of single-use fabrics, stretching their usage for a larger cause towards a greener environment.