

American Nurses Association 2010 House of Delegates

Resolution

Safety and Effectiveness of Reprocessed Single Use Devices in Healthcare

WHEREAS, the reprocessing of single use devices is increasingly becoming more commonplace in the nation's healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the U.S. Federal Drug Administration's analysis of its own Adverse Events Database found "no causative link between a reprocessed single use device (SUD) and reported patient injury or death"; and

WHEREAS, there exists a significant body of research literature from peer reviewed journals supporting the conclusion that certain SUDs can be safely reprocessed; and

WHEREAS, some of America's premier healthcare facilities as listed in the *U.S. News and World Report* of the nation's best hospitals in 2008 support the practice of reprocessing of SUDs; and

WHEREAS, there is significant cost savings associated with the use of reprocessed devices; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that tens of thousands of tons of medical waste can be diverted from landfills by reusing SUDs, thus reducing the environmental impact of the original devices; and

WHEREAS, registered nurses have expressed a need for more information about the safety and efficacy of reusing reprocessed SUDs; and

WHEREAS, registered nurses are concerned about the collection methods being used in some healthcare facilities for the used SUDs and the appropriateness of institutional reprocessing policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association supports reducing the quantity and toxicity of healthcare waste from the manufacturing, purchase and use of products and materials by improving end-of-use product management;

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association supports ongoing research efforts in public health, environmental health and nursing to better understand the ethical and safety issues associated with utilizing single use devices; and

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association supports the dissemination of research on the practice of using reprocessed single use devices, including the impact on patient outcomes and the environment.

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association supports improved end-of-use management including the reprocessing of appropriately identified FDA-labeled single-use devices based on law and regulations; and

RESOLVED, that the American Nurses Association supports best practices for the various reprocessing methods and the safety of single-use devices for patients and healthcare workers