8 Jul 2023

Jin-Lei Wang
Company Editor-in-Chief
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Dear Dr. Wang and Reviewers,

Thank you for your kind comments. I have made the required changes as detailed below. In addition, I have updated the search for new articles till 8 July 2023. This yielded 2 more relevant articles (Anstey, *Aust Crit Care* 2023, Hemberg, *Intensive Care Med* 2023).

Sincerely,

Kay Choong See
National University Hospital, Singapore

Reviewer #1
Specific Comments to Authors: This is an excellent article that I read with great pleasure. My only remark is that both in the literature and in real life, as well as in this article, the producer's responsibility when placing a non-recyclable product on the market is under-emphasized. Some of them do not represent a significant advance in the performance of the device. Healthcare legislators and those who are responsible for putting the product on the market in certain countries should be aware of that moment. I suggest a minor change with a note on the manufacturer's responsibility.

Reply

Added the following paragraph to Future Direction: “Promoting environmental sustainability requires the active participation of stakeholders beyond the ICU, e.g., manufacturers and healthcare regulators. On the one hand, manufacturers should strive to prioritize sustainability in their product designs and production processes, aiming for environmentally-friendly alternatives whenever feasible. For non-recyclable products, these should offer substantial advancements in device performance compared to their recyclable counterparts, to justify their purchase. On the other hand, healthcare regulators should preferentially approve products that can be reusable or recycled, lessening waste accumulation and environmental degradation. For instance, the World Health Organization has recommended that when purchasing equipment and supplies, environmentally friendly products should be prioritized, such as those with minimal packaging, reusable and recyclable parts, and minimal hazardous chemicals and non-degradable plastics.”

Reviewer #2
Specific Comments to Authors: I read with great interest the manuscript entitled “Improving environmental sustainability of intensive care units: a mini-review”. The premise is based on a pertinent but often ignored topic. The manuscript is well written but I would suggest to add a table on clinical practices which may aid in reducing the environmental contamination. This may act as an easy reckoner to the readers.

Reply

Added Table 1: Clinical practices which may aid in reducing the environmental impact of ICUs.