The Calgary Health Region (CHR), a large integrated care organization in Alberta, required a rapid review of reuse of SUDS in order to inform Regional policy, as there is no current overarching Provincial or National policy regarding this issue.

There is currently a wide range of single-use medical device (SUD) types being reused in many health systems.

SUDs range from inexpensive basic equipment, such as disposable procedure gloves, to expensive and complex devices with electronic components, such as electrophysiology catheters.

To our knowledge there are no published systematic reviews or health technology assessments (HTAs) that address the risk, benefit, or cost issues associated with SUDs in a generic fashion.

In Canada, HTAs have been published on single use catheter cathers (12) and hemodialysis (5). Most attention appears to have been placed on relatively expensive SUDs, for which the financial impact on health systems would presumably be larger.

This rapid review considered only critical devices.

Definitions:
- Critical device: any device that enters sterile areas of the body or the vascular system (Spaulding (4)).

METHODS

SEARCH STRATEGIES

- Published peer-reviewed journal articles were searched using the Internet search engine PubMed.
- Search terms using the "and" operator in all cases: disposable device cost reuse (224 references), disposable device cost reuse review articles (22 refs.), disposable device cost reuse (11 refs.), medical device cost (20 refs.), reprocessing device (289 refs.), reprocessing medical device (14 refs.), single-use device cost (58 refs.), single-use device cost review (72 refs.), reprocessing device (32 refs.), Internet search engines: Google Scholar. Identified relevant government and non-peer-reviewed literature sourced information using the following search terms:
  - single-use device reprocessing cost
  - single-use device reprocessing
  - single-use medical device
  - single-use medical device reprocessing
  - single-use device reprocessing cost
  - single-use device reprocessing safety
  - No date restrictions were used

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REFERENCES