



Centre national d'information indépendante sur les déchets

Private clinic in first-of-a-kind pledge to eliminate

Paris, July 20th. For the first time in France, a private clinic and a purchasing group have joined forces and pledged to minimise their use of PVC health care products, in order to put pressure on suppliers and medical devices manufacturers.

Clinique Champeau in Béziers, initiator of the Committee for Sustainable Development in Health (C2DS) and the first private French clinic to be certified as ISO 14.001, made yet another important step forward to sustainable health care by pledging to phase out the use of medical devices containing PVC.

Olivier Toma, Director of Clinique Champeau, was convinced by the CNIID campaign "First Do No Harm" to gradually eliminate PVC medical devices in order to protect the health of his patients. "We fight every day in favour of primary prevention. When we knew that endocrines disrupters were released from the devices and might harm our patients, we understood that it was not compatible with our policy of health," said Toma. The private clinic undertook an internal audit to investigate the composition of its catheters. However, the task is not as simple as it might seem. "The composition of the plastic is not always indicated on packaging," said Fabrice Guichet, manager of the internal audit at Champeau. "It is difficult under these conditions to know what one uses." In parallel with the internal audit, Champeau gave its purchasing group a related mission : to demand from manufacturers of medical devices to indicate the exact composition of the plastics used in the devices in all their technical description forms.

The purchasing group Club H, responsible for purchasing for private hospitals in the medical and medico-social sectors, responded particularly quickly to Champeau's demand. Club H also established a working group to notify suppliers about the effects of these purchasing decisions. MF. Bézine, Quality Manager of Club H, said, "It is the first time that one of our members has made such a request. This is a turning point in the purchasing process of the health care providers."

Aurélie Gigandet, First Do No Harm campaign coordinator, said, "Thanks to Champeau and Club H, France has finally joined leading hospitals in Sweden, Denmark and the Czech Republic in making environment and health a priority in supply decisions. France could become a leader in this movement if other health authorities follow the example set by Clinique Champeau."

First do not harm campaign

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