



INNOVATIVE  
HEALTH

# Frontiers in Medical Device Reprocessing

Innovative Health November 2023 Newsletter



## Reprocessed Intellamap Orion™ Mapping Catheter

The INTELLAMAP ORION™ Mapping Catheter is designed to work with the RHYTHMIA HDx™ Mapping System. Innovative Health received clearance to reprocess this catheter in 2021, but a software change from Boston Scientific made Innovative Health decide to not widely offer the product until the problem was solved. Innovative Health engineers have solved the problem, and the product is now widely available again – providing EP labs savings of more than \$1,000 per procedure. Please contact Innovative Health for more information.

## Cables

In October, Innovative Health published [The Technology of Cable Reprocessing](#) – a whitepaper about the importance and complexity of reprocessing still more advanced Electrophysiology cables. As an advanced Electrophysiology reprocessing company with clearances and patents reflecting sophisticated reprocessing technology, Innovative Health is well suited for helping hospitals with this critical activity of making cables ready for another use – whether they are reusable or single-use. Many cables come with a lot of pins that need to be tested, specific cleaning requirements, etc., and it is difficult for a hospital sterile processing department to ensure all cables are handled according to manufacturer instructions for use, appropriately tested, and taken out of the re-use cycle when the maximum number of uses is reached.

## Growing Interest in Reprocessing

Public awareness about the need for better resource stewardship in healthcare is increasing as individuals, organizations, and government agencies push for more environmentally sustainable practices – and as healthcare facilities experience massive pressure to reduce costs and become less wasteful. It is now widely recognized that device re-use is a necessary strategy to achieve these goals – and single-use device reprocessing is often noticed as the arguably more impactful and most established re-use practice in hospitals. Innovative Health was recently featured on Healthcare Now's [Trending NOW](#) podcast (July) as well as [the Sustainable Healthcare Podcast](#) in a segment titled "The Future of Reprocessing in Healthcare" (September).

## Healthcare Suppliers and Climate Accountability

There is a lot of talk about reducing the environmental footprint in healthcare, and hospital sustainability coordinators are under increased pressure to provide numbers demonstrating things like reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In July, [Healthcare Business News](#) published the article, *Healthcare climate accountability starts with suppliers*, featuring Innovative Health and our take on this situation: *Calls for environmental responsibility in healthcare are "helpful, and they demonstrate the need for healthcare to become accountable for its carbon emissions footprint. They also make a critical point: You can't effectively address the climate impact of healthcare until you can put numbers on carbon emissions. Without those numbers, there is no true accountability, only talk [...] To create climate accountability in healthcare, we need carbon emissions calculators, and we need more LCA studies. And since hospitals today have zero visibility into Scope 3 carbon emissions, good approximations are better than nothing. It's time for more suppliers in healthcare to stop making excuses and start providing real solutions to carbon footprint measurement and reduction in healthcare."*

## Carbon Emissions Calculator

In September, [Innovative Health](#), Inc. [launched a new educational initiative and free online tool](#) to help hospital leaders better understand, quantify, and improve environmental sustainability within their electrophysiology (EP) labs. Specifically, the initiative includes a new online calculator, [available here](#), that enables hospitals to see how much they could reduce their annual carbon footprint via EP device reprocessing. “In the [electrophysiology lab](#), complex devices have a substantial carbon footprint,” said Innovative Health CEO [Rick Ferreira](#). “Using reprocessed devices in the EP lab can reduce that carbon footprint by more than 50 percent.”

## Rising Technology Costs – It’s About The Patient

US hospitals are under substantial cost pressure, and becoming [better stewards of hospital resources and supply chains is a necessity](#). However, this is not a simple task when technology costs keep going up – and reimbursement doesn’t increase at the same rate. As a result, manufacturers are getting richer, and hospitals are getting poorer. There are winners and losers in all markets and industries. But when technology manufacturers win big and hospitals lose big, the real loser is not the shareholder or the hospital’s administrator. The real loser is the patient. Right now, manufacturers are thriving. Hospitals are failing. And patients are suffering. We must stop this trend in its tracks by becoming better stewards of hospital resources and supply chains. Innovative Health CEO Rick Ferreira addresses this issue in [this video](#).

## Notisphere and Market Disruptions

A constant, predictable supply of reprocessed devices can be impacted by original manufacturer design changes and recalls that limit the supply of reprocessed devices or delays the reprocessing process. NotiSphere offers an innovative digital platform that directly connects medical device suppliers, such as Innovative Health, and healthcare organizations, enabling direct communication and management of medical device recalls and market events in real-time. In October, Innovative Health announced that they have [partnered with Notisphere](#) to accurately and timely communicate to customers about market disruption events.

## Regulatory pressure to address carbon emissions

In November, the Joint Commission launched an initiative to certify US hospitals based on their sustainability achievements: A [Sustainable Healthcare Certification](#). Across the health care sector, hospitals and health systems are pursuing decarbonization efforts without a common framework for setting priorities, creating baselines, and measuring and documenting greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions across the industry. This certification provides a framework to help organizations expand or continue their decarbonization efforts and to receive public recognition of their commitment and achievements in contributing to environmental sustainability.

Also in November, the medical device reprocessing industry enjoyed a great nod, as the [National Academy of Medicine](#) (NAM) repeatedly endorsed the practice in its new tool, the [Sustainability Journey Map](#). The map is an interactive tool to “support health care suppliers in initiating or accelerating their decarbonization and sustainability efforts.” The map outlines five key stages of sustainability, and provides best practices and resources for each step – and each step advocates single-use device reprocessing.

## New Products from Innovative Health

At the heels of a very successful launch of the Biosense Webster Octaray reusable cable, one of the most complex and most expensive electrophysiology cables in the market, Innovative Health engineers are conducting final testing of the reprocessed QDOT reusable cable, in anticipation of a December launch. At the same time, there is ongoing dialogue with FDA about clearance for two more cardiology devices. Innovative Health is committed to a constant stream of new clearances and product launches to increase savings through reprocessing.

## All Circular Solutions Are Not Equal

In an [October article](#) in Healthcare Purchasing News, Innovative Health helped shed light on one of the most pressing issues in healthcare: How can we become more green without spending more money? “Legacy sustainability programs had no value proposition – they were a financial burden to hospitals, and the question became whether to do the right thing or to do the thing that made financial sense. This is because legacy sustainability programs were straight-out recycling programs where used items were broken down to component parts and inserted into ill-equipped recycled parts manufacturing – in a very expensive process. The fact is that in terms of circular utilization, recycling is a very poor solution.” Single-use device reprocessing is a rare example of a circular solution that reduces waste – and costs.

## AllSpire and Innovative Health

In November, Innovative Health [could announce](#) that we have signed a new 3-year agreement with AllSpire, a collaborative, regional group purchasing organization. “We have more reprocessing savings in cardiology than in any other area of the hospital,” said James V. Wallick, Senior Director, Strategic Sourcing at AllSpire Health GPO. “Innovative Health produces unsurpassed results that help us meet our cost-reduction targets and become more accountable in terms of the environment. Innovative Health has already saved AllSpire member hospitals millions and reduced our carbon emissions footprint by more than 10,000 pounds. We are excited to continue and expand on our partnership.” Economic sustainability is central to AllSpire’s mission. AllSpire is committed to building an economically sustainable enterprise that positions each member system to thrive in a chronically dynamic environment and continuously enhance the quality, efficiency and scope of care they deliver.

\*The third-party trademarks used herein are for device identification and are trademarks of their respective owners.

