

RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP IN PHARMACY SUSTAINABILITY

Single-use plastic bags and plastics recycling at Jewish General Hospital



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At the Jewish General Hospital, our Pharmacy department's procedure to deliver medications for a newly admitted patient is from our satellite pharmacy using a single-use plastic bag per patient. Once on the ward, nurses take the medications and dispose of the bags in the garbage. Note that plastic bottles are accepted in the recycle bins at our institution but bags are not. The Pharmacy Green Committee along with eight students from McGill's Bieler School of Environment teamed up to look at creative ways to reduce plastic and our carbon footprint. Several solutions were adopted: reusable clips are now used in the delivery of meds instead of single-use plastic bags and recycling bins throughout our department are better labelled for recycling compliance.

In addition to recycling more plastic waste, we are on-track to reducing the use of approximately 18 000 single-use plastic bags per year that would have otherwise gone to the landfill. Both Pharmacy techs and Pharmacists are cognisant of the ill effects of plastic and are trying to reduce our carbon footprint all while providing the best care for our patients.