



PVC/DEHP-free Patient Identification Bands

Environmental and Health Benefit: Reduce human exposure to cancer-causing dioxin emissions from manufacturing 61,000 square feet of PVC per year.

Business Impact: Cost savings of 1.6 percent over two year life of contract.

Kaiser Permanente continues to reduce our use of products made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). In second quarter 2009, the Medical Core Group elected to replace patient ID bands made of PVC with those made of the tyvek®, a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) made by spinning very fine continuous filaments and bonding them together using heat and pressure.

KP's concern about PVC stems from the unintentional dioxin emissions released during its manufacture and the occasional incineration of medical waste. Dioxins are a family of highly toxic and persistent chemicals known to cause cancer in humans.

With the conversion of 4.4 million ID bands, Kaiser Permanente will reduce our demand of PVC by 61,000 square feet per year, well over the size of a football field. While ID bands are small in size, each conversion away from PVC sends a message to the marketplace that we're continuing to safeguard not only the health of our patients but our local and global communities as well.

“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, current general population exposure to dioxin may cause a lifetime cancer risk that is 1,000 times higher than the EPA's acceptable risk level.” *Health Care Without Harm*, <http://www.noharm.org/us/pvcDehp/dioxin>

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