



The role of chemistry in sustainable medical textiles

ABOUT US

We are a network of thousands of hospitals, healthcare leaders, and healthcare professionals, with members across Europe and partners across the globe.

Together we prove that it's possible to deliver the highest quality of care in a way that's sustainable environmentally and financially.



GLOBAL GREEN AND HEALTHY HOSPITALS

THE HEALTHCARE
PROVIDERS AT THE
HEART OF OUR
ORGANISATION



114 members in 19 countries
across the WHO Europe region

A person wearing a white lab coat and a hairnet is working in a laboratory. They are holding two test tubes, one in each hand, and appear to be examining them. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in lab coats. The entire image has a blue overlay.

THE ROLE OF CHEMISTRY IN SUSTAINABLE MEDICAL TEXTILES

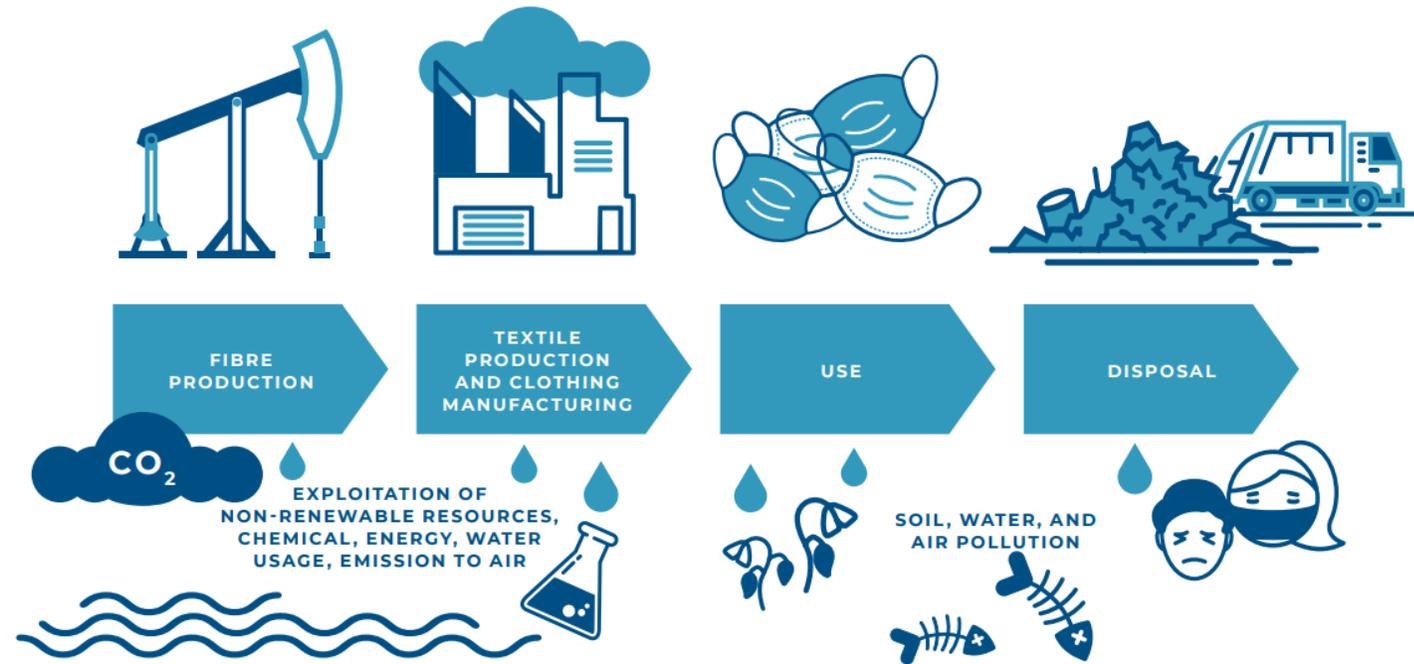
CIRCULAR HEALTHCARE

STRATEGIC GOAL

European health systems drive markets towards toxic-free products that conserve finite resources, minimise waste, and contribute to an ethical supply chain and circular economy.



THE IMPACT OF MEDICAL TEXTILES



CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

Approximately 3,500 substances have been identified in textile production, of which 750 have been classified as hazardous for human health and 440 as hazardous for the environment.

Chemicals found in textiles finishes	Function (claimed by manufacturers)
Formaldehyde or formaldehyde resins	Easy care finish (water-, oil-, stain-, and wrinkle resistance)
Formaldehyde, citric acid	Crease resistant finish
Oxy-ethylated polyamides	Hydrophilic finishes
Silicone, poly ammonium quaternary salts	Anti-static finishes
Silica gel	Non-slip finishes
Azo dyes, disperse dyes	Dyeing
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Repelling both water and oil
Brominated flame retardants, Chlorinated flame retardants, Phosphorus-containing flame retardants	Fire resistant finishes
Phenols, quaternary ammonium compounds, (nano)silver, copper, zinc	Antimicrobial finish

SPEAKERS



Holly Morris

Surgeon and Medical
Textile Specialist,
Textile Institute



Stefan Posner

Polymer and textile chemist,
Independent researcher



Tore Havellen

Environment, Health &
Safety Advisor, Oslo
University Hospital

Q&A





NO HARM

THANK YOU!

Please send any further questions to:
kpacella@hcwh.org

NOHARM.ORG

2022 © HCWH Europe