

Healthcare Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs): Driving Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Throughout the Healthcare System

Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) Sustainability Issue Brief:

As the sourcing and purchasing partners to America's acute and non-acute healthcare providers, healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs) are helping to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility throughout the healthcare system. GPOs help hospitals and other healthcare providers assess their sustainability efforts, provide recommendations on ways to further reduce environmental impact, and offer webinars and other educational resources on the value of environmental responsibility. GPOs help providers source and migrate to environmentally preferred products and leverage their data expertise to measure environmental impact and provide insights on purchasing decisions. As supply chain leaders in sustainability, GPOs include environmental considerations in the contracting process and advocate for policy solutions that support sustainability.

GPOs Are Taking Innovative Steps to Support Healthcare Providers' Sustainability Efforts

- ✓ **GPOs help member providers establish or expand sustainability programs, make recommendations around climate change, sustainability, and purchasing,** and provide resources such as webinars that educate providers on the value of environmentally preferred products.
- ✓ **GPOs help healthcare providers source and migrate to environmentally friendly products,** provide key environmental information about products, and create dashboards that allow members to search for products according to desired environmental attributes.
- ✓ **GPOs leverage their data and analytics expertise to integrate critical environmental impact data for products into the purchasing process,** helping providers quickly and easily make cost-effective, efficient decisions that support the total health and quality of their communities.

GPOs are Supply Chain Leaders in Sustainability and Include Environmental Considerations in the Contracting Process

- ✓ **GPOs include sustainability considerations in the contracting process** and encourage and often require suppliers to provide details about their use of environmentally preferred attributes as part of the contracting process.
- ✓ **GPOs work with suppliers and other key industry stakeholders to establish a set of environmentally preferred products attributes** to create market demand that make it easier and less costly for manufacturers to produce these products.
- ✓ To incentivize suppliers to offer environmentally friendly products, **GPOs highlight environmentally preferred products in their offerings to members and provide suppliers with the opportunity to showcase their sustainability standards.**

HSCA Advocates for Policy Solutions that Support Sustainability and the Environment

- ✓ HSCA and its member GPOs **support policy solutions that encourage sustainability and environmental responsibility in the healthcare system.** As healthcare providers aim to reduce environmental footprint, **GPOs support these efforts by also incorporating and highlighting the environmental considerations and impacts of various healthcare policies.**
- ✓ HSCA submitted [comments](#) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the closure of some sterilization facilities and impact on patient access.