

Waste Disposal in the 21st Century and Diabetes Technology: A Little Coffee (Cup) or Beer (Can) with That Insulin Infusion (Set)

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Abstract

The advent of single-use disposable syringes along with myriad similar products for the health care industry has raised interest in the impact of these devices on the environment. Interest does not stop at impact of the device, but also includes associated pharmaceutical agents. Across the spectrum of health care, providers as well as end users of products are assessing the impact of product design and contents upon land, air, and water. In this issue of *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology*, Pfützner and colleagues tackle the issue by focusing on a product for the diabetes patient. As environmental sustainability has become part of the evaluation process of many products, their assessment sheds some interesting light on the impact of a group of devices when compared and contrasted against the ever-popular disposable coffee cup or beer/soda aluminum can. Regional variations in waste disposal practices need to be understood when conducting these types of assessments.

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