



ELKAY[®]

Study about **water consumption** in hospitals

A person is shown in silhouette, drinking from a teal water bottle. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise with a blue sky and white clouds. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

Staying
hydrated
is very
important
for our
health

WATER MANAGEMENT IN HOSPITALS



Staying hydrated has many benefits, it aids digestion, boosts our immune system and improves skin's appearance. So it's vital that water is present in our day-to-day lives, at school, at work and in health care facilities.

In hospitals, **a reliable supply of water is essential**, since staff, patients and visitors **must have easy access to water to maintain health and carry out activities.**



Bottled water is a widely used resource in health centers. On average, **NSW Health hospitals in Australia used 3 million bottles of water in 2011**, which were supplied under a state contract.

However, using PET plastic bottles can deepen the environmental crisis that our planet is experiencing, since **500 billion plastic bottles are produced per year.**



Faced with this situation, the Departmental University Hospital of Nariño, Colombia proposed **a policy to reduce its environmental footprint by recycling 6.3 tons of plastic and PET that had been collected between 2014 and 2017 in its facilities.**

Waste can also be reduced through the use of water fountains or bottle filling stations, which help decrease the use of PET bottles and increase access to cleaner drinking water at hospitals.

SAFE WATER IN HOSPITALS

According to data from the United Nations and UNICEF, one out of every four health centers in the world lacks water or sanitation services, affecting 2 billion people.

In 2016, the World Health Organization found that **74% of health care facilities in the world have basic water service**, meaning that they have a source of clean drinking water.

The study shows that **14% have limited water services**, meaning that they do not have safe drinking water in their facilities, but can access one within a 500 meter radius.

Basic water service coverage in medical centers by region



East and Southern Asia	87%
Oceania	70%
Sub-saran Africa	51%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Not enough data
Europe and North America	Not enough data

Source: WASH in health care facilities: Global Baseline Report 2019

Having safe drinking water is necessary for hospitals to provide the best service. **Untreated water can contain chlorine, cryptosporidium and giarda, all of which can cause disease.**

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **health care associated infections account for approximately 1.7 million infections and 99,000 deaths a year in US hospitals.**

How can medical centers provide quality drinking water?

Through a professionally-installed filtration system that helps avoid disease transmission.

INSTALLATION OF WATER FOUNTAINS AND PROHIBITION OF BOTTLED WATER



To take care of patient's health and reduce the use of PET bottles, **medical centers have chosen to take measures such as a ban on bottled water. For example, SSM Health Care banned the sale of plastic water bottles at its 20 hospitals located in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.**

Along the same lines, **Intermountain Healthcare (also located in the United States) has reduced the consumption of bottled water, leaving the purchase of it for cases of resilience and disasters.**

Likewise, **medical centers have begun installing of water fountains or bottle filling stations**, which help to filter out harmful substances and generate a better distribution among the hospital community.

Mercy Hospital has placed bottle filling stations at all of its locations in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas, while banning bottled water from coffee shops, retail areas and gift shops. This will drive the reduction in consumption of PET bottles, since it consumes 614,400 water bottles per year.

In the same vein, medical centers such as Francesco de Borja de Gandia (Spain), St. Thomas' Hospital and Guy's Hospital (London), have installed water fountains and bottle filling stations to provide better service.

In the case of Guy's Hospital, the installation of four bottle filling stations helped save 38,000 plastic water bottles per year for each one, which translates into a total saving of 150,000 bottles per year.



It is worth mentioning that the implementation of water filtration for at-risk patient populations is relatively new in the United States, but these tools have been used in Europe for the last 10 years.

European health institutions have recognized that waterborne pathogens are a risk for neonatal patients, the elderly, and patients in intensive care units, so filtration helps in reducing infections.



Quality water for health

For more than a decade, Elkay has produced hands-free **bottle filling stations and drinking water fountains**, which help eliminate PET plastic bottles and are a **hygienic, efficient, accessible way to provide free water for hospital staff, patients and visitors.**



Refilling bottles is a healthy option, as Elkay ezH2O bottle filling stations offer filters that help reduce lead, chlorine, particulates, odor and taste and provide quality water for doctors, patients, and medical staff.

Elkay products have CE certification for 220V / 50Hz products, are certified under NSF/ANSI 61 standards (Annex G, AB1953), are produced to comply with the A.R.I. (regulation 1010) and are lead free.

Elkay's ezH2O® is a clean, easy-to-use, next generation bottle filling station with unique universal design and a low cost of maintenance.

Hands-free units provide instant water and minimize the spread of bacteria and are energy efficient with insulation that reduces power consumption.

In addition, **the bottle filling stations have a graphical display, the Green Ticker™**, which indicates how many 20-ounce PET plastic bottles are saved from the environment.

Elkay's efforts to improve the water situation and reduce the use of PET plastic bottles with thousands of bottle filling stations installed around the world have left a positive footprint.

The use of bottle filling stations improves the distribution of water in hospitals, helps to save money and benefits the health of the medical community.



At Elkay we believe that people's well-being begins with a glass of water, and we provide cleaner and healthier water within everyone's reach.

Hospitals Should Have Cleaner, Healthier Drinking Water

Hospitals' Drinking Water Challenges

Did you know ...



Waterborne illnesses are more common than you may think, especially in a hospital environment where diseases are more likely to be close by



Large hospitals face the greatest challenge due to their sheer size, but smaller institutions are not immune to the problem either



Another risk is gastrointestinal disease, **which is often associated to unfiltered water supplies**

The risks of unclean drinking water



UNLESS YOUR HOSPITAL HAS SOME SORT OF FILTRATION SYSTEM, or is providing water from a source other than city tap water, you have a 25% chance that the water you are drinking is polluted with one or more contaminants.



HOWEVER, IT'S NOT JUST DRINKING WATER HOSPITALS NEED TO CONSIDER, water is used for so much more! Water is used for clinical procedures, the sterilization of instruments, handwashing and more, all of which could spread a disease if contaminated.



WHEN A PATIENT IS ALREADY UNWELL, worrying about these additional risks is the last thing they should be facing.

Did you know ... **Elkay®** has products that provide fresh drinking water and they can be installed in hospitals, home care or medical facilities.

Building A	
5	Intensive Care
4	General Surgery
3	Cardiology
2	Radiology
1	Oncology



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