

Submitted by: David Ridley, Salmon, BC

**Q** The Hepatitis/AIDS scare in Nevada caused by the misuse of surgical equipment has resulted in a class action lawsuit. Does VIHA reuse any equipment such as cautery elements, endoscope accessories etc., which were manufactured for single use only?

**A** Please be assured that VIHA does not reuse items designated for single use, other than items that are reprocessed by a third party processor, licensed under Health Canada and FDA guidelines. This does not include the equipment referred to above.

Submitted by: Aynes deLaat, Owner, Soul Comfort Sheepskin & Sheepwool

**Q** We are all interested in quality patient care, especially the patients and their families. Since cost-effective sheepskin and sheepwool fabrics are well known to alleviate skin conditions related to pressure wounds and bedsores for long-term and palliative care patients, would VIHA approve the use of natural sheepskin and sheepwool fabrics (unlike their imitation counter-parts which aggravate these conditions) in at least one hospital or care centre to provide this exceptional curative/preventative care? If not, why not?

**A** While VIHA recognizes the comfort sheepwool products may provide to some residents and clients, this product is not one of the standard products provided to individuals in residential care or palliative care settings. However, residents or family members in care settings who have a preference for a product or brand name that is not the standard one provided, can always opt to purchase and use an upgraded or non-standard product, where it is clinically appropriate to do so.  
Under VIHA's Fair Business Policy, any contract for products used in our care settings would be subject to a Request for Proposal process.

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