



# The Vernacare System

## Product Innovation Highlights

Vernacare's single-use disposal systems incorporate biodegradable bedpans, bowls and urinals that use touchless disposal technology and create a more hygienic, safe, and efficient solution for infection prevention and reduced staff exposure risks.



- ✓ Improves infection prevention & control
- ✓ Increases patient and staff dignity
- ✓ Saves nurse time and improves productivity



### About Vernacare

Vernacare is the world-leading provider of an ecologically sustainable waste management solution used in a wide range of patient care settings that offers proven benefits to patients, caregivers, and the planet.

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## Solving a Healthcare Challenge

Over 16 million people contract a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) each year, with a mortality rate of approximately 6%.<sup>1</sup> Inadequate waste disposal practices put patients at risk of HAIs and can lead to patient mortality and health systems' financial loss.<sup>2,3</sup> Manually emptying and cleaning reusable containers is a high-risk procedure. The aerosols created result in environmental contamination and a risk of spread of pathogenic organisms, including COVID-19, Norovirus, and *Clostridium difficile*.<sup>4</sup> According to a recent study, with over 93 contact episodes per hour between patients, staff and visitors, there is a risk for cross contamination using reusable containers.<sup>5</sup> These ineffective systems also result in lost nursing time, increased cost and environmental impact.



Vernacare Vortex Macerator



### Solution

In 2020, in response to The World Health Organization’s statement that “equipment should be single-use and disposable to minimize the risk of transmission,”<sup>6</sup> Vernacare developed its single-use, disposable waste management system to provide enhanced protection for patients, staff, and caregivers. Handling of potentially contaminated reusable containers is eliminated through hands-free operation. Fully biodegradable bedpans, bowls, and urinals are disposed of without the need to touch any surfaces or machinery, resulting in a more hygienic, safe, and efficient solution.

### Features

- Hands-free disposal
- Biodegradable single use products made from sustainable materials
- Energy & cost efficiency
- Saves nursing time
- Easy to use



### Evaluation and Success

Vernacare’s waste management system can be found in over 60 countries, including Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Mexico, Europe, and the



United States. Since the system’s introduction to the United Kingdom’s NHS more than 50 years ago, Vernacare has worked with leading infection preventionists and clinicians around the world. Evaluations of the solutions’ impact on clinical outcomes and staff satisfaction have been published in *Healthcare Quarterly* and the *American Journal of Infection Control*.

Vernacare will continue to provide its pioneering waste disposal system into new markets and market segments by working closely with clinical leaders and the planning & design community. Through close design phase collaboration, Vernacare can work with planners and architects to strategically place waste disposal systems to enhance clinical workflow, increase patient dignity, caregiver morale, and reduce the risk of infections.

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- 2&3. World Health Organization. Patients Safety. Report on the Burden of Endemic Health Care-Associated Infection Worldwide, 2011.
4. Kampf, G. (2020). Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents. *Journal of Hospital Infection*, 104(3), 246-251.
5. Cheng, V. et al. (2017). Hand-touch contact assessment of high-touch and mutual-touch surfaces among healthcare workers, patients, and visitors. *Journal of Hospital Infection*, 90(3), 220–225.
6. World Health Organization. Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected. Interim guidance 25 January 2020 WHO/2019-nCoV/IPC/v2020.2 (Document - 20200126-ncov-ipc-during-health-care)

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