A growing number of international initiatives aim to promote sustainable procurement in the health care sector and guide hospitals to adopt sustainable practices and processes. These initiatives, illustrated by various examples and case studies, identify areas to do the following:

- Reduce their use of avoidable resources (for example, reducing the use of nonsurgical gloves where these are not necessary for infection control purposes).
- Improve and optimize the use of their current equipment (for example, conducting life cycle assessment or analysis to optimize the long-term use of imaging systems and other treatment devices). Life cycle assessments can also support decision-making when comparing the environmental impact of single-use items and reusable items, as well as associated cost savings.

The identification of unnecessary and avoidable supplies can take various forms and should demonstrate credible efforts. For example, identification efforts can be demonstrated through related audits and assessment, discussions as noted in minutes of meetings, and research on similar initiatives in other hospitals or organizations. Identification should lead to prioritization and translated into actions for implementation.

In addition to decarbonization, this can lead to improved patient experience and financial savings.

Measurable Elements of GHI.04.00

1. Ⓓ Climate- and environmental sustainability–criteria are included in the hospital procurement guidelines. (*See also* GLD.05.02, ME 3)
2. For any new contract with suppliers or vendors, department managers prioritize suppliers and vendors that have sustainability and carbon emission reduction objectives in place. (*See also* GLD.05.02, ME 3)
3. Hospital leaders and department managers identify opportunities to optimize processes within the hospital by identifying unnecessary and/or avoidable supplies in at least three of the following areas:
   - Pharmaceuticals and other chemicals used for treatments
   - Chemicals used for sterilizing, disinfecting, and cleaning purposes
   - Food and agricultural products
   - Medical devices
   - Hospital equipment and instruments
4. Hospital leaders and department managers implement actions to assess the benefits of reusable items instead of single-use materials in clinical and nonclinical areas. (*See also* PCI.03.01, ME 1)

Infrastructure and Service Resilience

Standard GHI.05.00

Hospital leaders assess the environmental risks and scenarios that may affect service delivery, hospital operations, and patient populations, with plans to comply with local emergency preparedness recommendations and rules, including those required by property insurance coverage.

Intent of GHI.05.00

The climate crisis has been recognized as the greatest threat to human health in the twenty-first century. It causes an increase in noncommunicable and infectious diseases, negatively impacts social and environmental determinants of health, and causes disruptive climate events (for example, floods, wildfires, landslides, strong winds), which can directly impact the health care delivery when and where they occur. For example, consequences may include the following:

- A sudden increase in the demand for health care services if the surrounding community is directly affected
- Damages to the infrastructure and facilities of the hospital

- Power cuts
- Disruption in the supply chain

Hospitals play a unique and essential role for their communities when facing those hazards and need to be able to provide uninterrupted care in those emergency situations.

Based on existing frameworks, hospitals should consider the following five areas to plan for all scenarios, adapt their infrastructures and services, and strengthen their resilience:

- Climate risks and community vulnerability assessment
- Land use, building design, and regulatory context
- Infrastructure protection and resilience planning
- Essential clinical care service delivery planning
- Environmental protection and ecosystem adaptations

A hospital's risk register, or equivalent document, records all risks that threaten the organization and its objectives. They may include or need to comply with local emergency preparedness guidelines or property insurance coverage. Due to the global nature of climate change impacts, environmental disruptive events should be included in all hospitals' risk registers.

These disruptive climate events are foreseen to become more frequent, and in locations where they didn't occur previously. Therefore, the risks and scenarios should be reassessed every three years to adjust and plan accordingly.

Measurable Elements of GHI.05.00

1. Ⓓ Climate change impacts are included in the hospital's risk register or equivalent document.
2. Ⓓ Hospital leaders develop a written plan of adaptive actions to mitigate current and future climate-related hazards and risks based on recent (that is, within the last three years) information, and progresses toward the organization's agreed targets. (*See also* FMS.09.00, MEs 1 and 2)
3. Ⓓ An assessment of the environmental risks, scenarios, and vulnerabilities within the communities is conducted every three years. The results are presented in a report and inform the plan of adaptive actions, which is updated accordingly. (*See also* FMS.09.00, ME 3)
4. Ⓓ Hospital leaders develop preparedness programs for adverse weather scenarios and disruptive events. The preparedness plan is tested and updated annually and includes measures taken to train the employees to respond to these scenarios. (*See also* FMS.02.00, ME 1; FMS.09.00, ME 1)