

Appraisal of Environmental Impact of an Inpatient Bed Day (high intensity)

ULS de Braga
Portugal



AstraZeneca 



**Sustainable
Healthcare
Coalition**

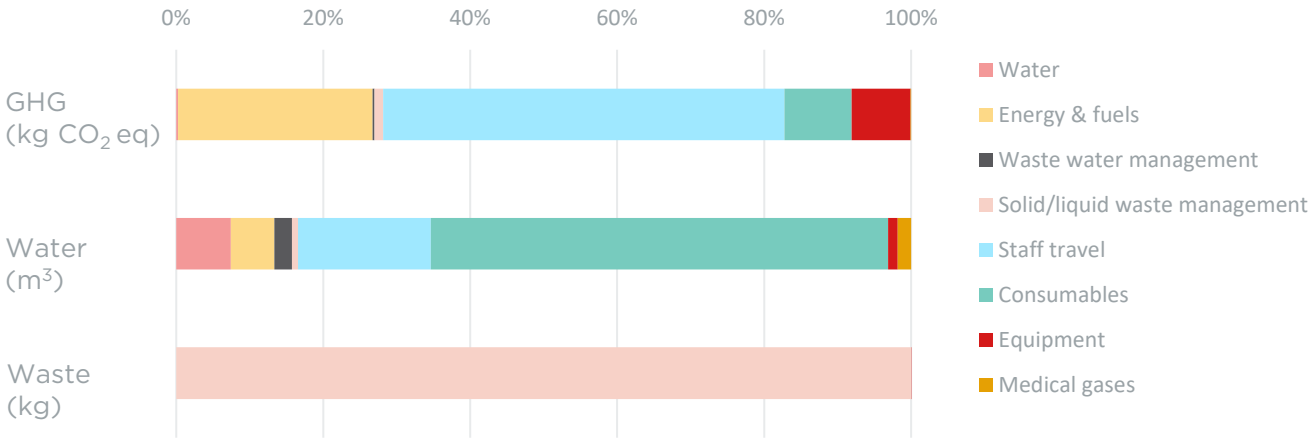
Title	High intensity bed day at ULS de Braga, Portugal
Organisation and role	AstraZeneca UK Limited initiated and funded this work, but it was not involved in collecting and analysing the hospital data. AstraZeneca UK Limited saw only the final aggregated output.
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Completion date	September 2023
Assurance	Internal assurance
Supporting information	Operational data from Unidade Local de Saúde (ULS) de Braga, Portugal
Data gathering and analysis contact	Michael Collins, Partner, ERM (michael.collins@erm.com)
Hospital contact	Marco Sameiro (qualidade@ulsb.min-saude.pt)
Conformance with Care Pathways: Guidance on Appraising Sustainability¹	Adheres to the principles of the Guidance
Care pathway description	Inpatient bed day (high intensity) at ULS de Braga
Environmental issues appraised	Global warming potential (IPCC, CO ₂ eq, 100-year), water use, waste

This resource is supplementary material for the care pathway study of ULS de Braga and activities within the hospital, ‘Appraisal of Environmental Impact of ULS de Braga.’² Refer to that document for a description of the assessment procedures.

Findings

This study appraised the environmental impact of a high intensity inpatient bed day at ULS de Braga in Portugal. The study found a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impact of 102.1 kg CO₂ eq, water use of 51.7 m³ and waste of 9.7 kg per inpatient bed day (24 hours).

Staff travel was the most significant contribution to the GHG emissions impact, accounting for 55% of the impact. The GHG emissions impact of staff travel is driven by the number of staff in the department. It should be noted that the emission factor for



¹ Care Pathways: Guidance on Appraising Sustainability. (SHC, 2023). <https://shcoalition.org/sustainable-care-pathways-guidance/>

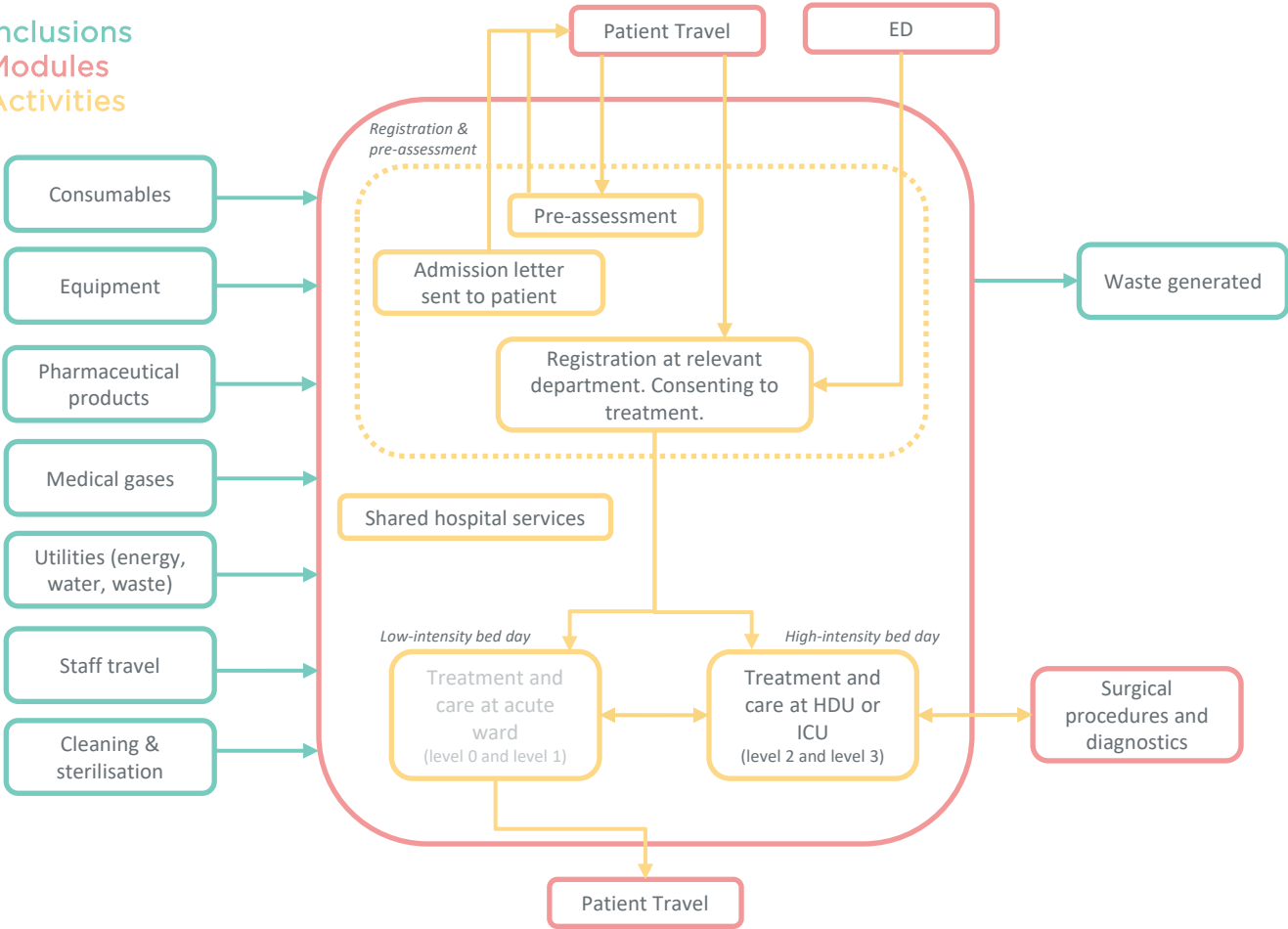
² ERM (2025) Appraisal of Environmental Impact of ULS Braga, <https://shcoalition.org/https-shcoalition-org-appraisal-of-environmental-impact-of-hospital-activities-at-uls-braga/>

staff travel was based on average GHG emissions associated with commuting, using a mix of UK and European data, as local data were unavailable. A dedicated staff travel survey would provide data to enable a more accurate appraisal of staff commuting impacts. Energy, fuels and refrigerants, consumables, equipment and medical gases were also identified as GHG emissions hotspots.

Scope

- This assessment appraises the environmental impact of a high-intensity inpatient bed day at ULS de Braga.
- The functional unit of the system studied is an inpatient bed day in 2021.
- The scope includes pre-assessment, registration and patient treatment. The scope does not include surgical procedures or diagnostics.

Inclusions Modules Activities



Data

The following data were collected for all relevant activities for 2021, and are described in the diagram:

- Utilities data (fuels, electricity renewable or not, water use, and waste generated)
- Department consumables, such as filtration masks, serum gels and surgical masks
- Medical gases, including oxygen and nitrogen
- Pharmaceutical products, including sedatives, antibiotics and anticoagulants

- Annual equipment purchases and replacements, such as perfusion pump systems, blood pressure monitors, videoscopes
- Staff travel
- Linen use and cleaning and facilities cleaning

The environmental impact of the high intensity inpatient bed day visits for 2021 were modelled and then divided by the total number of 2021 bed days. The hospital’s utilities data were provided and allocated to the high-intensity bed ward based on floor space.

Results

- Results are the environmental impact of a high-intensity inpatient bed day (24 hours) at ULS de Braga.

Module	GHG kg CO ₂ eq	Water m ³		Waste kg
		Direct	Indirect	
Water	0.00	0.61	3.18	-
Energy & fuels	24.4	-	3.01	-
Waste water management	0.25	-	1.23	-
Solid/ liquid waste management	1.07	-	0.42	9.69
Staff travel	50.4	-	9.20	-
Consumables	8.43	-	31.7	-
Equipment	7.39	-	0.68	-
Pharmaceutical products	9.88		0.70	
Medical gases	0.07	-	0.93	-
Total	102.1	0.61	51.1	9.7

Acknowledgements

This document has been developed collaboratively with ULS de Braga and the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition. The coalition comprises a range of organisations within the healthcare sector, including pharmaceutical and medical device companies, trade bodies, procurement, government organisations and other stakeholders. The Sustainable Healthcare Coalition operates with the aim of facilitating the journey towards good health and wellbeing on a finite planet, through open-minded collaboration across public and private healthcare.