

press release

Novo Nordisk Signs MoU to Pilot Australia's First Recycling Initiative for Medical Injection Pens

Sydney, Australia - 19 March 2026: [Novo Nordisk](#) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pharmacycle, TerryWhite Chemmart, Northern Sydney Local Health District (Royal North Shore Hospital) and St Vincent's Hospital Sydney to launch Australia's first pilot recycling initiative for medical injection pens.

The pilot is part of [ReMed™](#), Novo Nordisk's global take-back and recycling initiative, and will explore practical, scalable pathways to help keep valuable materials out of landfill through a coordinated collection and recycling approach across the healthcare system.

How the ReMed™ pilot will work

Subject to operational readiness and relevant requirements, the pilot will launch in H2 2026, allowing patients using Novo Nordisk medicines delivered via disposable, pre-filled injection pens to return used pens at **participating TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy locations in Sydney** for appropriate collection and processing.

Inpatients and outpatients at **Royal North Shore Hospital** and **St Vincent's Hospital Sydney** will also be able to return used pens at their respective hospital sites.

The pilot will test end-to-end steps including:

- **Patient return and safe collection** at participating pharmacy sites
- **Secure transport and handling** through agreed channels
- **Sorting and recycling pathways** to recover materials where feasible
- **Operational learnings** to inform whether the approach can be scaled over time

Tackling a growing waste challenge

Australia is experiencing rising prevalence of metabolic conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, which is expected to contribute to ongoing demand for treatments delivered via injection devices.

Around **1.5 million Australians live with diabetes**, many of whom rely on injectable therapies to manage their condition¹. This includes people with type 1 diabetes, who require daily insulin, as well as a growing number of people with type 2 diabetes using

¹ Diabetes Australia, 2023 Snapshot: Diabetes in Australia report, accessed March 2026, available from: <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023-Snapshot-Diabetes-in-Australia.pdf>

insulin or GLP-1 receptor agonists, often delivered via injection pens as their primary treatment method.²

Used injection pens often end up in household rubbish and ultimately in landfill, resulting in lost materials that could otherwise be recovered. This is occurring at a time when Sydney faces an impending waste crisis, with the city's landfill capacity expected to be exhausted by 2030.³

Comments from participating organisations

- “With ReMed™ already active in seven countries, expanding the program to Australia is an important step in reducing the impact of medical waste. This work directly supports Novo Nordisk’s Circular for Zero ambition by turning our sustainability commitments into tangible action. We look forward to working with local partners to strengthen a more circular and sustainable healthcare system,” said **Elin Jäger, Senior Vice President, Chief of Staff to CEO; Corporate Strategy & Sustainability at Novo Nordisk.**
- “We are proud to support this Australia-first initiative on product stewardship for an essential medical device as it demonstrates the collaboration and leadership needed to tackle the plastics and waste crisis we face in Australian health systems. We congratulate Novo Nordisk, a CAHA member, for their leadership on driving this exciting initiative and look forward to championing the roll out,” said **Michelle Isles, Chief Executive Officer of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA).**
- “Healthcare plays a critical role in improving lives, but it also generates complex waste streams that require specialised recycling solutions. This pilot will demonstrate how collaboration across manufacturers, pharmacies and hospitals can create practical and transparent pathways to recover materials from medical injection pens that would otherwise end up in landfill. We’re proud to be working with partners across the healthcare system to help bring this initiative to life,” said **Michael Klapsogiannis, General Manager of Pharmacycle.**
- “Pharmacies are often the most accessible healthcare touchpoint for patients managing chronic conditions like diabetes and obesity. Supporting this pilot allows us to play a role in testing how used injection pens can be safely returned and responsibly handled, while learning alongside our partners what a scalable solution might look like for the future,” said **Michael Beaumont, General Manager, TerryWhite Chemmart.**

²Diabetes Australia, Managing Diabetes – Medicines for your diabetes, accessed March 2026, available from: <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/managing-diabetes/medicines/>

³NSW Environment Protection Authority. Sydney landfill shortage [Internet]. Sydney: NSW EPA; 2025 [cited 2026 Mar 4]. Available from: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Working-together/Community-engagement/updates-on-issues/Sydney-landfill-shortage>.

- “We are grateful to be part of this pilot at Royal North Shore Hospital and excited to support a practical step toward reducing medical waste and advancing a more sustainable, circular approach to healthcare,” **Paul Klarenaar, Director, Population & Planetary Health, Northern Sydney Local Health District.**

Novo Nordisk is a member of the Medicines Australia’s Medical Sustainability Group, and Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA).

About ReMed™

ReMed™ is Novo Nordisk’s global sustainability initiative and take-back program designed to collect used plastic pre-filled injection pens from patients, recycling them to reduce environmental impact. It serves as a key part of Novo Nordisk’s commitment to reducing the company’s environmental impact across its full value chain, aiming to turn medical waste into new resources. The initiative has been successfully launched in seven countries around the world: Denmark, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Japan and the UK.

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 68,800 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries.

Novo Nordisk has been operating in Australia since 1976. We deliver medicines to more than 1.6 million patients in Australia for the treatment of diabetes, obesity, rare diseases and other serious chronic diseases. For more information, visit www.novonordisk.com.au

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