



## One step closer to a safe blood bag

**PVCfreeBloodbag, a five-year EU project, is now successfully entering its final stage. Its promising results will be presented at a seminar on 20 October at Health Care Without Harm's CleanMed Conference, UN City in Copenhagen, both in plenary and in a separate parallel session.**

This EUR 2 million project has been a success, paving the way towards safer healthcare. It has also demonstrated that cooperation between healthcare and industry can encourage innovation that reduces negative impacts on both health and the environment.

The seminar will present both the project's achievements and upcoming challenges, as well as results from the in vitro studies performed at Karolinska University Hospital, user tests, and a life cycle assessment that compares the new bag with the bags currently in use. Both the EBA (European Blood Alliance) and UNDP (United Nations Development Program) have shown an interest in the project's outcome and in how to make progress in this field.

In addition to showing that it is possible to produce a completely PVC-free set of blood bags, the project has worked with the European healthcare sector to increase demand for a safer product from producers and suppliers. This also means that the project has played an important role in the work to strengthen EU legislation for medical devices.

Four final seminars will be held in different countries. One has already been held in Östersund, and one will take place in Düsseldorf in November. At the same time as the seminar in Copenhagen, the project will be presenting results in Orlando at the annual meeting of BEST – Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusions/ISBT – International Society of Blood Transfusions. An article based on the outcome of the project's in vitro studies has recently been accepted for publication in Vox Sanguinis.

Pictures:

Baby hand – photographer Tina Stafrén

Blood donation for In vitro tests – photographer Andreas Johansson

PVC free blood bag, the green bag – handling tests – photographer Lena Stigh

**More information: [www.pvcfreebloodbag.eu](http://www.pvcfreebloodbag.eu)**

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