

Phasing out of mercury

KZN policy

2003

- The Health Technology Unit (HTA) had discussions with health care practitioners on phasing out of mercury
- Decision taken that no new mercury sphygmomanometers would be bought
- Aneroid sphygmomanometer

2006

- HTU decision that no new mercury thermometers would be bought
- To be replaced with digital thermometer
- HTU bought a number of digital thermometers and provided 6 per hospital on an exchange basis
- Provided clinics and hospitals with specifications for digital thermometer

Costs

- Mercury Sphygmomanometer:
- R 120 to R 280
- Aneroid sphygmomanometer:
- R 140 to R 200
- NIBP (electronic): R 1 000 to R 10 000