

# Focusing on sustainability in ultrasound



Versana Balance™ and Versana Essential™  
Ultrasound



GE HealthCare



# Creating a more sustainable future requires us to care for the planet and its inhabitants

It is essential that we continue to drive progress toward early, precise, and accessible diagnosis and treatment of more patients. For the planet, it is critical that we do so with a reduced impact on precious and rare resources that are imperative to life. We believe that the advancement of precision medicine, greater digitization of healthcare, and increased access to quality care are fundamental to accomplishing this goal.

We support carbon policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. GE HealthCare has a goal to achieve net zero by 2050. An interim goal is to reduce our operational emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 42%\* and our Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services, upstream transportation and distribution, business travel, and use of sold products by 25%\*\* by 2030 compared to a 2022 baseline. In 2024, we received validation on our updated goals from the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), a group of visionary corporate leaders taking ambitious climate action. As a result of these efforts, we want to enable a more sustainable health system by addressing not only the environmental impacts of our products but also the challenges healthcare professionals and their patients face with resilient, digital solutions.



**We have a goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.**

**We've set interim goals to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 42% and Scope 3 emissions by 25%\* by 2030\*\*.**

\* from a 2022 baseline year.

\*\* includes purchased goods and services, upstream transportation and distribution, business travel, and use of sold products from a 2022 baseline year.

# Leading a new era in sustainability for a more resilient tomorrow

We're creating a world where healthcare has no limits, helping to improve access to care and enable better patient outcomes.



## **Environmental**

Using fewer resources for a healthier planet.

## **Digital**

Transforming healthcare through innovation.

## **Resilience**

Building flexibility and dependability across healthcare systems.

# Versana Balance and Versana Essential help create a more sustainable tomorrow

Our Versana Balance and Versana Essential ultrasound and its services help ensure clinicians and the patients they serve have the technology necessary to create a more sustainable and resilient tomorrow.

## Reducing environmental impact

- More than 98% of Versana Balance's and Versana Essential's packaging material can be recycled.
- 90% of the raw materials used in the system can be recycled.

## Improving care

- Reach new levels of clinical excellence with image quality that ranks with the best in its class.
- Versana Balance and Versana Essential have Whizz clinical features that provide up to 38% faster workflow.<sup>1</sup>
- Simplify scans with productivity tools for breast and bladder.
- Whizz Label provides AI-powered auto labelling of the right kidney, gallbladder, and liver in the right upper quadrant.\*

1. GE HealthCare-sponsored usability study, using Whizz. Study was conducted in December 2022. JB24263XX

\* Whizz Label is only supported on Versana Balance



# Contributing to a healthier planet

**More than half of the healthcare sector's climate footprint, approximately 53%, is attributable to energy use.<sup>2</sup>** As a result, we have strengthened our commitment to environmentally conscious design and we are implementing more sustainable practices across our product manufacturing, sourcing, distribution, installation, and service operations. This includes improving energy efficiency, optimizing the use of limited or rare materials, providing digitally enabled service throughout the product lifespan, and offering refurbishment and recycling options at the end of product life.

**GE HealthCare environmental management system is ISO 14001 certified**

Our production and service operations align to ISO 14001 standards.

**We're committed to environmental product design**

This product conforms with IEC60601-1-9:2007.

<sup>2</sup>Health care climate footprint report | Health Care Without Harm (noharm-uscanada.org), based on 2019 report

## Materials

GE HealthCare reviews the environmental aspects of the material supply used within our products to increase recyclability and decrease the use of hazardous substances, when possible.

### Recyclability

More than 90% of the raw material in Versana Balance can be recycled including:

- Ferrous metal: 39%
- Non-ferrous metal: 29%
- Plastic: 22%
- Others (including electric components): 10%

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More than 90% of the raw material in Versana Essential can be recycled including:

- Ferrous metal: 40%
- Non-ferrous metal: 30%
- Plastic: 20%
- Others (including electric components): 10%





## Packaging

GE HealthCare imaging equipment has a robust and multi-sourced supply chain for systems and spare parts across our product portfolios.

### Improved packaging

More than 98% Versana Balance's packaging material can be recycled including:

- Wood: 55%
- Corrugated cardboard: 26%
- PE plastics: 13%
- Metal: 4%

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More than 98% Versana Essential's packaging material can be recycled including:

- Wood: 53%
- Corrugated cardboard: 31%
- PE plastics: 13%
- Metal: 1%

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### Product transportation

Shipment method of Versana Balance and Versana Essential are broken down as follows:

- Air transport: 81%
- Ocean transport: 1%
- Truck transport: 18%





## Manufacturing

Through our environmental reviews, we also focus on implementing more renewable energy and reducing waste, when possible.

### Renewable energy

The Versana Balance and Versana Essential systems are manufactured in our Wuxi, China, site which has recently installed a rooftop solar system designed to generate 100M kW·h per year.

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The Wuxi site features energy-efficient air conditioning and a smart energy management system, which is designed to continuously reduce energy consumption by 90%.

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Prior to the addition of the rooftop solar system, ultrasound manufacturing at the Wuxi manufacturing facility required 876,376 kW·h. The solar-generated energy should reduce that by about 18%, or 100M kW·h per year.



## Product utilization

Our imaging products are designed to help enable energy efficiency through dedicated features and advanced applications to reduce the environmental impact. Ergonomic design can help to enhance health and potentially reduce environmental impacts, such as reducing waste and saving energy.

### Ergonomically designed

#### Reduce staff burden

The Versana Balance is adjustable in two dimensions:

Lift up-down: 140 mm

Monitors on both the Versana Balance and Versana Essential can be adjusted left and right to suit the operator.

The probes have been ergonomically designed to:

- Handle and manipulate with ease.
- Connect to the system with one hand.
- Be lightweight and balanced.
- Have rounded edges and smooth surfaces.

An optional foot switch can be used for comfortable hands-free system control.

#### Noise level

Versana Balance Acoustic noise: 22.91 dB at medium fan speed.

Versana Essential Acoustic noise: 41.91 dB at medium fan speed.





## Product utilization

### Guidance for product utilization

Instructions are provided for use of the equipment to minimize the environmental impact during installation, use, and operation.

### Reduce energy consumption during use

Freeze mode is activated automatically after 2 minutes of scanning air for Versana Balance and Versana Essential.

Versana Balance:

- Off mode: 1.9 W
- Standby: 5 W
- Ready-to-scan 4D: 119.7 W
- Ready-to-scan Freeze: 97.7 W
- Ready-to-scan data: 89.9 W

24h energy consumption, measurements per COCIR guidance:

- Off mode: 0.6175 kW·h
- Standby: 0.71 kW·h
- Ready-to-scan: 2.87 kW·h

Versana Essential:

- Off mode: 3W
- Ready-to-scan 2D: 69.9W
- Ready-to-scan at Freeze: 62.8W
- Ready-to-scan data: 70.3 W

24h energy consumption, measurements per COCIR guidance:

- Off mode: 1.24 kW·h
- Ready-to-scan: 1.68 kW·h

### Carbon emissions

There are zero direct carbon emissions at place of use.

### Guidance for product utilization

Instructions are provided for use of the equipment to minimize the environmental impact during installation, use, and operation.

# End of product life

We are increasingly putting our retired products' materials back into the supply chain to maximize efficient use and minimize unnecessary waste. This circularity model enables our imaging products to extend their clinical impact through longer lifespans while reducing the environmental footprint. Additionally, we offer our customers support for upgrades and services throughout a product's lifespan, when available, to maintain optimal performance and help drive better patient outcomes.

Our refurbishment programs involve an extensive inspection and testing process, designed to bring equipment back to its original certified manufacturing specifications. If the system is not suitable for refurbishment, eligible parts are harvested for reuse after quality and performance testing, while the remaining parts are returned to dedicated recycling facilities.

## Product utilization

### Guidance for end of lifecycle

Equipment instructions are provided to minimize the environmental impact for disposal or recycling.

### Upgradeable hardware and software options are provided as a solution to extend the product lifespan.

Upgrades are available for Versana Balance and Versana Essential.

### Parts harvesting and refurbishment options are provided to reduce waste and environmental impacts while extending imaging access to less advantaged regions.

Ultrasound system parts are eligible for assessment at the appropriate time in the lifespan, for refurbishment, harvesting, or recycling.<sup>3</sup>

94–96% of most systems are reused, refurbished, or recycled, extending the lifetime of each product.

95% of Versana Balance and Versana Essential parts are harvestable for spare parts.

Refurbished Versana consoles are available.

### Waste reduction

This system is in accordance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.

<sup>3</sup> Products within ultrasound are eligible for refurbishment, although whether a system is actually refurbished versus harvested for parts or otherwise recycled or reused, is dependent on the state of the system when GE HealthCare takes possession of it. Data on file.



# Digitizing healthcare through transformative innovations for a more resilient tomorrow

We are committed to investing in digital capabilities that help accelerate clinical decision making, optimize imaging operations, and drive efficiencies in exam workflows, all of which can improve patient outcomes. Enabling digital transformation will further enhance our predictive and maintenance service operations for the life of your products.

We are also dedicated to driving a more resilient and sustainable future in healthcare. Many factors, including the pandemic, climate-related weather disasters, and supply-chain issues amplified this need. Managing operations through these challenges requires resilience and perseverance.

## Helping clinicians advance patient outcomes

Advanced applications and cutting-edge AI tools provide personalized data to drive actionable insights, helping healthcare professionals make fast, accurate clinical decisions for care pathways.

### **Gain actionable clinical insights for quicker decision making**

Versana Balance and Versana Essential features several advanced tools for clinical insights and earlier diagnosis including:

- Auto IMT to help assess atherosclerosis risk with automated measurements.
- SonoBiometry which automatically suggests caliper placements and automates standard fetal measurements.

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### **Keep your imaging equipment up to date with advanced clinical applications**

Versana Balance and Versana Essential is designed to download software updates when they are available using InSite™. Software download monitors, notifies, delivers, and installs available system software updates. Remote update options via eDelivery are available in some markets.

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### **Drive advancements of precision health**

Versana Balance and Versana Essential features several advanced tools including:

- Auto EF which measures global ejection fraction and can automatically track myocardial tissue deformation.
- Auto IMT which enables automatic measurement of the intima media thickness of common carotid artery.
- Auto Bladder Measurement which enables automatic detection of bladder border and volume calculations, including a volume estimate of residual urine.



## Optimizing imaging operations

Our AI-based and advanced digital solutions are designed to increase efficiencies across the radiology spectrum without increasing the administrative and training burden on radiologists and technologists.

### Increase productivity and consistency

Versana Balance and Versana Essential suite of productivity tools help reduce manual steps and increase workflow efficiency.

- Whizz image optimization tools provide up to 38% faster workflow.<sup>4</sup>
- Whizz Label\* is powered by AI to enable automated labeling of the right upper quadrant organs.

### Reduce downtime

The remote service platform InSite connects you with a GE HealthCare Online Service Engineer or Applications Support Engineer. It has remote diagnostics capability as well as the ability to request service. Platform is available in some markets.

Software updates are available for download via eDelivery.

### Cybersecurity

GE HealthCare's Design Engineering Privacy and Security (DEPS) process follows GDPR, HIPAA, NIST 800-53, NIST 800-30, ISO 27001, and NIST CSF requirements.

<sup>4</sup>. GE HealthCare-sponsored usability study, using Whizz. Study was conducted in December 2022. JB24263XX

\* Whizz Label is only supported on Versana Balance





## Enabling intelligent exam workflows

Intelligent automation features help to drive consistency, enable fast, easy exams, and improve workflow with fewer resources.

### Reduce setup time

Simplified workflow feature can reduce setup time for patient information management.

### Reduce exam time

Versana's tools, including Whizz Label,\* Auto EF, Auto IMT, Sonobioimetry, and Auto Bladder Measurement, enable automated measurements of common clinical values, which can reduce scanning time.

### Ease of use

Simplified workflow features for patient information management can reduce operation steps up to 50% over previous versions.

### Cleanability

Our equipment is designed to be cleaned and disinfected easily. We continue to test and approve new cleaning and disinfecting agents. Visit [Cleaning.GEHealthCare.com](https://www.gehealthcare.com/cleaning) for updates.

\* Whizz Label is only supported on Versana Balance





# Creating a healthy world to help enable better patient outcomes.

[GEHealthCare.com/about/sustainability](https://GEHealthCare.com/about/sustainability)

Not all products or features are available in all geographies. Check with your local GE HealthCare representative for availability in your country. Commercial availability of GE HealthCare medical systems is subject to meeting local requirements in a given country or region. Not all features are included in the standard system configuration. Contact a GE HealthCare representative for more information. Intended for healthcare professionals only.

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