# WHAT IS REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE?

"A regulated medical waste is any solid, liquid or semi-liquid waste, generated in the diagnosis, treatment, (e.g., provision of medical services), or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining there to, or in the production or testing of biologicals. In addition, regulated medical waste is further defined at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6 and includes, among other things: culture and stocks of infectious agents, human pathological waste, human blood and blood products, used and unused sharps including syringes, contaminated animal waste, and specialized isolation waste. Regulated medical waste that is both treated and destroyed is no longer regulated medical waste. (Regulated medical waste is treated when the biological character is changed so as to substantially reduce or eliminate its potential for causing disease, and it is destroyed when it is processed sot that it is no longer generally recognizable as medical waste.) Regulated medical waste that is treated but not destroyed, or destroyed but not treated, is still considered regulated medical waste."

"Regulated Medical Waste" is classified as follows: Classification 1. Cultures and stocks, 2. Human pathological waste, 3. Human blood/blood products, 4. Sharps - hypodermic needles, syringes, pasteur pipettes, blood vials, scalpel blades, immunization vials, culture dishes, broken glass (only if contaminated), 5. Contaminated animal waste, 6. Special isolation waste - bio-level 4 CDC, and 7. Unused sharps. Items that are caked with dried blood or potentially infectious materials AND are capable of releasing these materials when handled will be considered regulated medical waste.

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Medical waste tracking forms, and required logging and reporting forms can be obtained from your medical waste disposal company or the State DEP or EPA - Division of Solid Waste Management, that oversees medical waste disposal.

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# WASTE DISPOSAL - FACILITY POLICY

Facility waste is segregated at the point of origin into categories that include but are not limited to:

1. Recycled waste (e.g., paper, aluminum, glass)

   Employees are encouraged to recycle in appropriate containers, which are located in the following area: _____. This facility recycles the following items: (1) paper (2) _____ (3) _____. Recycled items are collected by Stericycle _____ on a _____ (daily, weekly, monthly) basis.

2. Regular trash

   Regular trash is waste that poses no health or environmental risk. It is disposed of through routine waste facilities/companies in appropriate containers. The following company or town/city picks up this waste: Casella

3. Infectious/biohazardous "red bag" waste

   All infectious/biohazard waste shall be placed in closable, leak-proof containers or bags that are color-coded, labeled or tagged. All red bags will be labeled with the generators name, address and ID number (if applicable).

   Infectious/biohazard waste in the state of New York and the city of Utica must be handled appropriately, according to Federal, State, and local laws. Infectious waste must be picked up by a licenced medical waste company and then either incinerated, autoclaved, ground or decontaminated before disposal in a sanitary landfill. Bulk blood, suction fluids, excretions, and secretions may be carefully poured down a drain if connected to a sanitary sewer where permitted. Sanitary sewers may also be used to dispose of other infectious waste capable of being ground and flushed into the sewer, where permitted. Biohazard containers are kept upright throughout use and are routinely checked by Maintenance and then removed/stored when two thirds full. All biohazard red bag waste is then placed in leak-proof biohazard containers and stored in _____. It is then disposed of by (company) Casella (frequency) three weekly

4. Needles/sharps

Disposable syringes, needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items shall be placed in puncture-resistant "sharps" containers for disposal. Containers will not be filled more than 2/3 full. All containers will be labeled with the generators name, address and ID number (if applicable).

Puncture resistant sharps containers shall be easily accessible to workers and located in areas where they are commonly used.

All sharps and glassware are disposed of immediately (or as soon as possible) in containers that are closable, puncture-resistant, leak-proof on the sides and bottom, and appropriately labeled with a biohazard label.

Location of sharps containers:

Necessary departments

These containers are placed in the immediate area of use. When containers of sharps are moved from the area of use, the containers are closed and placed in a secondary container if they may leak.

5. Chemical waste

Chemical waste (e.g. bulk liquid chemical, chemotherapy) will be disposed of according to local and federal regulations. Write policy here:

6. Record keeping

The following records of waste disposal will be kept for a minimum of 3 years:

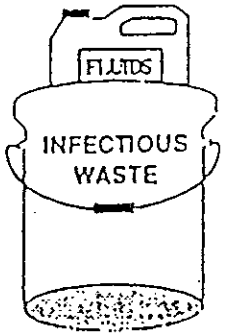
State licence/ID number (if applicable), medical waste transporters licence number, generator pick up (tracking) form and waste disposal/destruction confirmation form.

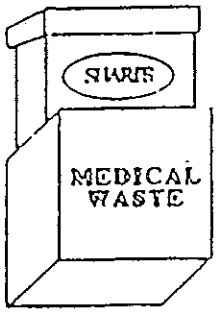
# PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING MEDICAL WASTE

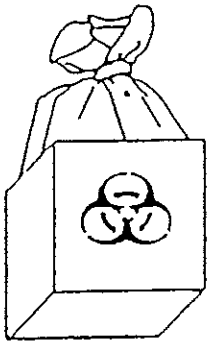
Medical waste generated by this facility must be properly packaged, labeled, and marked before being transported to an off-site facility for treatment or disposal.

## PROCEDURES

1. Medical waste generated by this facility will be placed in a container or combination of containers that are rigid and leak resistant, impervious to moisture, strong enough to prevent tearing or bursting under normal handling, and securely sealed.
2. Sharps (e.g., needles, razor blades, broken glass, syringes, lancets, scalpel blades, etc.) will be packaged in a rigid container resistant to punctures.
3. Fluids will be poured into a container resistant to breaking and equipped with a tightly fitting lid or stopper.
4. A water-resistant label will be affixed to all containers or packages of untreated medical wastes.
5. When there is inner and outer packaging, or containers, each container (inside and outside) will be labeled "Infectious Waste" or "Medical Waste" or display the universal Biohazard Symbol as illustrated below:



Universal Biohazard Symbol

6. Red plastic bags, when used as inner packaging for untreated waste, need no labels. However, the outer packaging or container will be identified by the proper label or symbol.
7. Before shipment, all packaging-inner and outer-will be marked with indelible ink or with a water-resistant identification tag. Each inner container, if used, will show the name and address of this facility (or identifying numbers).

# Compliance with Medical Waste Preparation for Transport

To be in compliance with NJ 49 CFR 172.204(a)2 the generator is to declare in section 15 "Generator's Certification" (N.J. DEP tracking form - it may be in another section of tracking form in other states) that all medical waste generated contains:

- ✓ the proper shipping name
- ✓ classification (segregation)
- ✓ packaging
- ✓ labeling
- ✓ proper condition for transport

What does this mean? It means that the generator accepts full responsibility for proper segregation, packaging and labeling of regulated medical waste generated. Proper segregation reduces the potential for accidental release of the contents and potential of exposure to the employees at the facility as well as the employees of the medical waste transport company and destination destruction facility.

The purpose of this document is to serve as documented training. It provides a general overview of medical waste segregation, preparation for transport and labeling. It will be provided to all personnel and new hires whose job will include preparation of the facilities medical waste for transport. These policies will be reviewed as needed or a minimum of every 3 years.

Your regulated medical waste company can help you comply with both the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) packaging laws. In addition each state may have regulations concerning the generating of medical waste. Not complying with these laws can result in substantial monetary fines.

What is medical waste? Solid waste generated during diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals.

- ✓ Cultures and stocks
  - Infectious agents
  - Lab cultures
  - Biological production wastes
  - Live and attenuated vaccines
- ✓ Pathological Wastes
  - Tissues
  - Organs
  - Body parts
  - Body fluids removed during surgery or autopsy
  - Body fluids and their containers
- ✓ Human blood and blood products
  - Liquid waste human blood
  - Items saturated and or dripping with human blood
  - Items that were saturated and or dripping with human blood
  - IV bags (if they have come into contact with blood or other regulated body fluid
- ✓ Sharps (used and unused)
  - hypodermic needles
  - syringes
  - scalpel blades
  - blood vials
  - culture dishes (used)
  - acupuncture needles
- ✓ Animal waste
  - Contaminated with infectious agents that are infectious to humans
- ✓ Isolation wastes

Waste is to be packaged in a container that is:

1. rigid
2. leak resistant
3. impervious to moisture
4. of sufficient strength to prevent tearing or busting under normal conditions
5. sealed to prevent leakage during transport
6. puncture resistant for sharps and sharps with residual fluids
7. break resistant for liquids greater than 20 cubic centimeters

- If waste if identified as cultures and stocks it must conform to the appropriate DOT packaging requirements

The medical waste company may refuse containers that are not properly packaged or leaking to protect their employees from potential exposure.

Labels shall be water resistant and contain the following information:

- Words "medical waste" or "infectious waste" on outer container
- Universal biohazard symbol on outer container
- Generator's name, address and license number

The medical waste company may refuse containers that are not properly packaged and labeled.

Each facility should be clear on what generated medical waste is acceptable. Hazardous waste such as bulk chemotherapy, mercury or other heavy metals, batteries, radioactive materials and pharmaceuticals are not medical waste. Your medical waste company can clarify what is and is not accepted by their company. Some medical waste companies offer services in these other categories in addition to regulated medical waste services, however, this is a question that is your responsibility to ask before mixing unacceptable waste with your regulated medical waste. Your medical waste company will supply you with the packaging containers they require – e.g. sharps containers, red bags, storage boxes, chemotherapy bins.

All records of pick up and destruction shall be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

References: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

N.J. DEP Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste