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IF0300: Waste Management	EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2006 REVISED DATE: November 2010, December 2012, March 2013, October 2019 REVIEWED DATE:
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1.0 PURPOSE

To prevent the spread of infection, reduce the risk associated with waste disposal and ensure the safety of the general public, patients and healthcare providers in regards to waste disposal processes.

2.0 DEFINITION

See the [Appendix A - Glossary](#) for waste definitions.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. Written procedures for the management of biomedical waste from healthcare settings should be developed based on provincial and municipal regulations and legislation.
- 3.2. All staff handling waste or garbage will wear personal protective equipment including protective gloves. [non-sterile exam glove selection guide.](#)
- 3.3. Waste should be segregated according to the categories listed in the table below. Waste from several different categories should not be mixed in one bag. **NOTE:** Placing regular waste that does not require special disposal will result in increased cost and may incur penalties from collection agencies.

WASTE TYPE	COLOUR-CODING	STORAGE/DISPOSAL
Anatomical waste – placentas, human tissue, organs and body parts	Red	Commercial BioMedical Waste Disposal - incinerated
Microbiology Laboratory waste autoclaved waste	White Bucket	Landfill
Fluid waste - pleurevacs, hemovacs, blood bags, suction liners/containers with visible blood , etc.	Yellow	Commercial BioMedical Waste Disposal *Contents of drainable devices can be emptied into the sewer.

Sharps – needles, sutures, lancets, blades, trocars, contaminated scissors, razors or clinical glass	Yellow Commercial Sharps Containers	Commercial BioMedical Waste Disposal
General waste - disposable suction containers with no visible blood , dressings, sponges, diapers, incontinent pads, PPE, disposable drapes, dialysis tubing and filters, empty IV bags and tubing, catheters, empty specimen containers, disposable lab coats and aprons and pads that will not release liquid or semi-liquid blood if compressed, etc.	Black bag **	Landfill – Regular Garbage Disposal **

**** FOLLOW LOCAL LANDFILL REGULATIONS.**

- 3.4. Plastic waste holding bags are color coded and sturdy enough to resist puncture under conditions of use and to the point of disposal. Use the Soiled Utility Room to gather together disposable biomedical waste.

Safe Sharps Handling

Use safety engineered medical devices, such as needleless devices.
 NEVER re-cap a used needle.

NEVER reach into waste or sharps containers.

Provision of rigid, puncture-resistant sharps containers at or near the point-of-use to permit safe one-handed disposal required.

Handle laundry with care.

Educate staff about the risks associated with sharps, including safe disposal of sharps in puncture-resistant containers if found in the environment (e.g. sharps in laundry, waste, bedside, floor).

4.0 PROCEDURE

- 4.1. **Use appropriate PPE** when handling waste/garbage including puncture resistant gloves. [non-sterile exam glove selection guide](#).
- 4.2. Ensure bags are not torn, are securely closed and no sharp objects are protruding through.
- 4.3. It is not necessary to double bag garbage unless the first bag is leaking.

4.4 Human blood & body fluid waste can be disposed of from drainable devices into a sanitary sewer and does not require special treatment before disposal. When handling these fluids care must be taken to eliminate spills and the formation of aerosols.

4.5. Place all general waste into the regular garbage containers.

4.6. Place Biomedical waste into appropriate containers.

4.7. SHARPS

- Choose the correct size/shape of sharps container for the situation (e.g.) small closable container for Home and Community care.
- Staff responsible for collecting and replacing sharps containers should be trained in proper handling methods.
- All sharps containers must have an approved biohazard waste label.
- Place all sharp items in an approved sharps container.
- **DO NOT** over fill sharps containers.



4.8. BLOOD & BLOODY BODY FLUID SPILLS

- Wear **appropriate personal protective equipment** to clean up spills (e.g.) gloves, gown, safety goggles and face shield if there is a danger of splashing.
- **Face-shield:** only be to worn over safety goggles or glasses (see [OHSR 8.17](#)) and [WorkSafe BC Eye and face protection](#).
- Ensure hands and mucous membranes are protected. Utilize shoe covers and gown if uniform or shoes may be soiled during cleaning activities Section 6.8, [Biological Exposure Control Plan](#)
- Clean the area - gross soil must be removed prior to cleaning and disinfecting
 - o Use paper towels for small spills, mop for large spills.
 - o Used paper towels should be placed in biohazardous waste container.
 - o Mop heads should be placed in laundry bags.
- Disinfect area with approved hospital disinfectant.
- Cleaning equipment/reusable gloves are to be cleaned/discarded appropriately.
- Hands must be washed at the end of the procedure.

4.9. BIOMEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL IN COMMUNITY CARE

- Follow Biomedical Waste Disposal – Community Care guidelines
<http://inet.interiorhealth.ca/infoResources/clinresources/Documents/Biomedical%20Waste%20in%20Community%20Care.pdf>

APPENDIX A - Glossary

Anatomical Waste – placentas, human tissues, organs and body parts; does not include teeth, hair and nails.

Biomedical waste – waste that requires additional precautions due to potential infectious nature; includes anatomical waste, fluid waste, sharps, microbiology laboratory waste and sharps **as defined in APPENDIX A.**

Drainable devices – any device that can have its liquid contents evacuated or drained out.

Fluid Waste – human fluid blood and blood products, items saturated or dripping with blood, body fluids contaminated with blood and body fluids removed for diagnosis during surgery, treatment or autopsy; does not include urine or feces.

General Waste – includes items such as dressings, sponges, diapers, incontinent pads, PPE, disposable drapes, dialysis tubing and filters, empty IV bags and tubing, catheters, empty specimen containers, disposable lab coats and aprons and pads that will not release liquid or semi-liquid blood if compressed.

- Includes waste from Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions rooms.
- Includes waste from offices, kitchens, washrooms, public areas.

Microbiology Laboratory Waste - laboratory cultures, stocks or specimens of microorganisms, live or attenuated vaccines, human or animal cell cultures used in research including laboratory material that has come into contact with any of these.

Non drainable and/or Single Use devices – any device that is not able to have its liquid contents drained out or are meant to be used once and then the device discarded.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – barriers used by healthcare providers to protect mucous membranes, airways, skin, and clothing from exposure to blood and body fluids. Can include gloves, mask, eye protection or gown, as needed.

Sharps – items capable of **cutting** or **puncturing** the skin **and** that have come into contact with **blood, body fluids** or **microorganisms** – items include all needles and devices containing needles or spikes, broken medical glassware, contaminated scalpel blades, scissors, razors, lancets.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) *Guidelines for the Management of Biomedical Waste in Canada*. CCME-EPC-WM-42E. February 1992. https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/hazardous/pn_1060_e.pdf Retrieved October, 2019
2. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC), Ontario, *Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections In All Health Care Settings – 3rd edition.*; April 2018 <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en> Retrieved October, 2019
3. City of Kelowna. (2012). *Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw Number 10106.*, Feb13/12 <https://apps.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs/Bylaws/Solid%20Waste%20Managemen%20Regulation%20Bylaw%20No.%2010106.pdf> Retrieved October, 2019