

WASTE MANAGEMENT






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Policy Statement










All organisations produce waste and are increasingly required to ensure it is dealt with in an environmentally-acceptable way that is compliant with the law. It is therefore the policy of this organisation to minimise and control any risks caused by waste generated through its activities.

This organisation understands 'clinical waste' to include:

-  *human tissue*
-  *body fluids and waste*
-  *disposable surgical equipment, gloves and aprons*
-  *soiled dressings and other contaminated waste*
-  *incontinence pads*

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it the responsibility of the employer to ensure the safe disposal of clinical waste from their premises, and failure to abide by the act can lead to prosecution.

According to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice issued in July 2015 on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. Any organisation that produces clinical or hazardous waste has a "duty of care" to:

-  Keep waste securely contained and prevent its escape or unauthorised removal
-  Ensure it is adequately contained and packed for safe transport
-  Label the waste clearly to identify its contents and point of origin
-  Transfer the waste only to a licensed contractor authorised to transport that type of waste
-  Describe the waste (on the appropriate forms) in sufficient detail that subsequent carriers and disposers can deal with it safely
-  Take reasonable steps to check that those providing or removing waste are acting properly and within the law.
-  **Duty to control polluting emissions to the air**
-  **Duty to control discharges from sewers**
-  **Requirements to provide contingency plans and have emergency procedures in place**



This organisation complies with a range of waste management regulations and guidance that govern the correct method of disposal of the waste, notifications to the Environment Agency, and the keeping of adequate written records for at least three years after disposal of the waste.










This organisation has a safe disposal system for clinical waste to ensure that all such materials are removed from their point of origin at regular intervals and transported securely to an appropriate point of disposal by incineration.

This organisation also complies with the *Code of Practice issued in July 2015 on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance.*

The Policy

This organisation expects all staff to adhere to the following policy on the disposal of waste:

-  All clinical waste should be disposed of in sealed yellow plastic sacks
-  Non-clinical waste can be safely disposed of in normal black plastic bags

-  On no account should clinical waste be disposed of within standard domestic waste sacks
-  The organisation believes that yellow clinical waste bags are best used in pedal-type bins to prevent unnecessary hand contact, and it provides such bins in all appropriate areas where clinical waste is generated
-  Sacks should never be filled more than three-quarters full and should be removed and sealed by staff wearing non-sterile gloves
-  Sealed sacks should be handled by the tied neck only and should be handled with care; on no account should sacks be thrown or dropped
-  Each sealed sack should be clearly labelled with the organisation's details
-  Sealed and labelled sacks should be collected by an authorised collector only and, while awaiting collection, full bags should be stored safely and securely away from residents, visitors, the general public, animals and pests
-  A waste transfer note should be completed, with a copy kept in the appropriate records
-  Full sacks should be stored in the bins provided
-  Sharps (used needles and broken medication glass) should be disposed of in sealed, purpose-built sharps containers and collected by authorised sharps collectors.

Warning: On no account should sharps be disposed of within standard clinical waste or within standard domestic waste.

The Collection of Clinical Waste

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1990* it is the organisation's responsibility to ensure that services contracted to collect clinical waste are properly licensed to do so and ensure the safe disposal of its clinical waste; failure to do this may also lead to prosecution. The carrier must be registered with the Environment Agency to carry that waste.

The authorised collectors are few, where PHS is for medical waste and sharps. On no account should another collection service be contracted without the express authority of the organisation.

Infection Control Training

All new staff will be expected to read the Infection Control Policy and the Handling and Disposal of Clinical and Soiled Waste Policy as part of their induction process. Existing staff should be offered training covering basic information about infection control. In-house training sessions should be conducted at least annually and all relevant staff should attend.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies on:

-  *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)*
-  *Infection Control*
-  *Environmental Management*
-  *Decontamination*