



Description

The person who generates waste is responsible for its safe and appropriate disposal. Waste is segregated to minimise costs and prevent harm to the environment.

Procedure Applies To

All Staff

Purpose and Scope

- Clinical waste and sharps are accurately identified and managed within National and State guidelines
- Waste is segregated to minimise costs and prevent harm to the environment.

Procedure Standards

General Waste

General waste is waste that has not been contaminated with blood or blood contaminated bodily fluids. This waste is disposed into landfill.

Normal waste is to be placed into black (non recyclable), white garbage bags (recyclable)

Recycle glass, aluminium, paper, cardboard and plastic where possible.

Clinical Waste (Potentially infectious and related waste)

Clinical and related waste is identified as:

<i>Clinical Waste</i>	<i>Related Waste</i>
Animal waste	Radioactive waste
Clinical waste	Cytotoxic waste
Sharps waste	Chemical waste
Laboratory waste	Pharmaceutical waste
Human tissue	

These wastes must be correctly segregated and disposed of in accordance with EPA and Australian and New Zealand Standards/ Guidelines.

Clinical waste is transported by a regulated collection company at UMHCS, this is through Steri-Health.

Waste Containers

Plastic bags

- Should be suitable for general waste
- Care taken not to overfill
- Should be sealed when full

Rigid wall containers

Sharps containers shall meet the requirements of AS4031 and AS/NZS 4621. The emptying, cleaning and disinfection of reusable sharps containers shall be in accordance with AS/NZS 4478/



Clinically or potentially infectious medical waste

Clinical/ infectious waste must be placed in yellow containers/ bags marked with biohazard label and "Infectious Waste".

- Human tissue, blood, body fluids containing blood and disposable material/equipment contaminated with such
- Urine and faces only if blood stained
- Laboratory specimens and cultures

Sharps Disposal Policy

Sharp objects e.g. needles, lancets, scalpel blades, contaminated glass, ampoules, spikes from IV sets, stillettes etc must be placed in designated yellow sharps containers.

Radioactive Waste

Radioactive waste is placed in prescribed red containers

Cytotoxic Waste

Cytotoxic waste must be placed in the PURPLE cytotoxic containers

Waste Storage Requirements

The following are the minimum requirements for storage by each health care facility generating waste:

- Containers storing clinical waste shall be securely closed and clearly labelled
- For areas storing clinical/ infectious and related wastes the storage area shall have an impervious surface and shall contain any spillage from waste containers
- Dedicated clinical and related waste storage area shall be provided so that there is no mixing of wastes with any other stored material.
- Access to storage shall be limited to authorised persons only
- Stored wastes shall be labelled so that it is readily apparent what type of material is stored within (e.g. infectious, cytotoxic)
- There shall be adequate containment measures to prevent off-site migration of spills
- Necessary clean up equipment (spill kit) shall be provided
- The area shall be vermin-proof, clean and tidy

Every health care facility must have a written waste contract with external providers, which contains the relevant infection control clauses.

Key Aligned Documents

Key Legislation, Acts & Standards

QICSA Standard Reference: 1.4 , 1.7, 1.8 .

RACGP standard reference : 5.1.3, 5.3.3

References



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Keywords

Cytotoxic

An agent or process that is toxic to cells.

Cytotoxic Agents

Substances used in the treatment of malignant and other diseases. They are designed to destroy rapidly growing cancer cells.