

Waste Disposal Policy

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Revised Date: NA

Policy Statement: It is the policy of Injury Care Research to preserve the health and safety of its staff and patients through the proper identification and disposal of biohazardous waste and sharps products.

Policy Purpose: To ensure compliance with local, state and federal regulations related to biohazardous waste handling and disposal. The most practical approach to the management of biohazardous waste is to identify those wastes with the potential for causing infection during the handling and disposal process. There is no epidemiological evidence to suggest that most healthcare waste is any more infectious than residential waste. Moreover, there is no epidemiological evidence that healthcare waste has caused disease in the community as a result of improper disposal.

Biohazardous Waste Disposal Procedure: Observing standard precautions, as defined by the CDC, discard biohazardous wastes in an impervious to moisture red biowaste bag at site of origin.

1. Place biohazardous waste in identified puncture resistant covered trash containers. These containers shall be located in each patient exam rooms and in each lab across all locations. Each bag must display the word "BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE" on the bag or place in a bag that has the international symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD". The bags shall be tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents during all future storage and handling.
2. Medical waste may be placed into a biohazard bag not to exceed three pounds or one gallon and tied in a patient treatment area/room and shall be immediately transported upon completion of the procedure directly from the point of generation and placed into a biohazard container stored in a soiled utility room or other biohazardous waste storage without having first been placed into a secondary container in the patient room.
3. Medical waste may be placed into a biohazard bag hung on a hamper stand in a surgery suite and the bag removed from the hamper stand after completion of the procedure, taken out of the treatment suite, and placed into a biohazard container stored in a soiled utility room or other biohazard waste storage area.
4. Double bagging is necessary only when waste has contaminated the outside of the bag or when the integrity of the bag is questionable.
5. Biohazardous waste include: dressings or items that are soggy, dripping, caked or flaking with blood or bloody body fluids; containers of blood; blood products or spinal, amniotic, peritoneal, pleural, pericardial or synovial fluids, lab specimens and cultures.

Disposal/Treatment: For containers that contain only sharps waste or only pharmaceutical waste, the storage time clock begins when the contents are at the container fill line. Containers with combined waste must be disposed within the shorter storage time allowed. For example, a container with both sharps and biohazardous waste must be disposed within 30 days of placing the

biohazardous waste in the container; if the container held only sharps, Injury Care Research has 30 days after the container is filled to dispose of the waste.

1. Biohazardous waste shall be bagged and placed for storage, handling, or transport in a rigid container which may be disposable, reusable, or recyclable. Containers shall be leak resistant, have tight-fitting covers, and be kept clean and in good repair. Containers may be recycled with the approval of the enforcement agency.
2. Containers may be of any color and shall be labeled with the words "Biohazardous Waste" or with the international biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD" on the lid and on the sides so as to be visible from any lateral direction.
3. Handle all other waste (not biohazardous, chemotherapy or radioactive) with care, observing Standard Precautions before placing in regular trash, which has a plastic liner. Examples of regular waste include the following: • Paper, wrappers • Gloves • Dressings that are not wet or soggy • Empty IV bags (with no prior additives) and tubing (except liquid blood) • Dry chux (absorbent pads)
4. Biohazardous waste is picked up from each department by licensed Waste Hauler SteriCycle.