

PURPOSE

Medical waste generated from the medical center can pose risks to patients, health care workers and visitors when not handled, contained and or disposed of appropriately. In order to control and minimize these risks the Medical Center requires HCWs to comply with the standards set forth in this document.

POLICY

Waste materials shall be handled, contained, and disposed of according to Medical Center Administrative and Safety policies. The following guidelines provide specific definitions of and disposal methods for NONMEDICAL, MEDICAL/BIOHAZARDOUS (previously designated as "infectious") and SHARPS wastes, consistent with the State of California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.1 of the Medical Waste Management Act.

NONMEDICAL WASTE

DEFINITION	DISPOSAL METHOD
<p>Waste not defined as "medical/biohazardous". Items such as paper towels, paper products, articles containing non-fluid blood, and other medical solid waste products commonly found in medical facilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most patient care unit, clinic and surgery waste such as dressings, disposable diapers/bed protector pads, intravenous tubings and bags, surgical drapes, ventilator circuits, etc. 2. Office and non-patient care department waste. 3. Kitchen waste, including disposables from patient trays. 	<p>Place into plastic bag lined container, transport without special precautions, and discard into dumpster/compacter.</p>
<p>Chemical, Radioactive, Chemotherapeutic and Mixed Waste.</p>	<p>See <u>ENVIRONMENT OF CARE MANUAL</u> for waste disposal procedures.</p>

MEDICAL BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE (previously known as "INFECTIOUS" waste):
Disposal as Biohazardous waste means placing an item into a designated barrel lined with a red biohazardous waste bag. Vials containing "biologicals" including all medicinal preparations made from living organisms and their products such as vaccines, antigens, antitoxins and serums are considered "Biohazardous waste". However, because these medications are available in glass vials that would, if broken, have sharp edges, EMPTY vials should be discarded as "Sharps" waste. Unused or partially used biologicals should be returned to Pharmacy for special processing.

DEFINITION	DISPOSAL METHOD
Liquid body substances such as blood, urine, bile, vomitus, or other secretions/excretions, and stool.	Sanitary sewer (toilet, hopper, or lab sink) in a manner that limits splash or splatter.
Tissue (eg., placenta, major debridement, etc.)	Place in plastic bag or other leak-proof, well-secured container. Then place in red bag lined Pathological Waste container The container is labeled Pathological Waste.
<p>SHARPS waste means any device having acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hypodermic needles and <u>all syringes</u>. 2. Metal intravenous access needles w/ or w/o manufacturer attached tubing (e.g. butterfly). 3. Scalpel blades, suture needles, lancets. 4. Contaminated glassware or plastics that have, or if broken would have, sharp edges or points including but not limited to blood vials, vacuum specimen tubes, test tubes, slides and cover slips, and EMPTY vials e.g. vaccines. 	<p>Rigid, puncture-resistant container (eg. sharps container) which when sealed is leak-resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty. Container must be labeled with a biohazard symbol. Sharps containers are to be closed/ secured when contents reach line on outside of container labeled "full". <u>DO NOT OVERFILL.</u></p> <p>Filled sharps containers are to be placed in biohazardous waste containers.</p>
<p>Patient care wastes: Containers of recognizable <u>fluid blood</u>, <u>fluid blood products</u>, or other body substances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfusion bags or other containers of liquid body substances (e.g., PleuroVacs™) that cannot be safely and easily emptied into the sanitary sewer. 2. Dialysis (hemo- and peritoneal) and pheresis <u>solid</u> waste materials including lines, membranes and circuits. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clamp any tubing from which leakage might occur, place in a bag, tie securely and place into a Biohazardous Waste container. 2. Securely bag and place into Bio-hazardous Waste box lined with bio-hazard bag.

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<p>3. <u>Liquid</u> wastes including effluent dialysate, Therapeutic Plasma Exchange from dialysis and pheresis.</p> <p>4. Isolation of <u>highly communicable</u> diseases (Ebola-Marburg virus, hemorrhagic fevers, Lassa fever, and Smallpox - <u>ONLY</u>). Wastes contaminated with excretion, exudate, or secretions from patients with these diseases, <u>ONLY</u>.</p>	<p>3. <u>Liquid</u> wastes from dialysis and pheresis. Drain carefully into Sanitary sewer (drain, toilet, hopper, or lab sink).</p> <p>4. Notify Infection Control immediately (353-4343) or via Medical Center switchboard). Requires very special handling. <u>Do not</u> remove wastes from room until Infection Control is present to advise and monitor.</p>
<p>Laboratory wastes, including, but not limited to the following:</p> <p>1. Microbiology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specimen cultures of microbiology lab designated organisms b. Other specimen cultures, medical and pathological, and accompanying solid waste. This includes: culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, mix, and incubate cultures. c. Needles/syringes/slides <p>2. Other Clinical Laboratories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Liquid blood and other body substances sent for laboratory Analysis. b. Needles, syringes, lances, scalpel blades and other sharps. Glassware or plastics that have, or if broken would have, sharp edges or pints including, but not limited to: Blood vials, vacuum specimen tubes, test tubes, slides, cover slips and Pasteur pipettes. c. Other contaminated fomites containing <u>liquid</u> blood or other body substance that cannot be safely emptied into a laboratory sink. d. Articles contaminated by blood or other body substances but <u>not</u> containing liquid (eg. gloves, paper towels, and empty urine specimen containers). <p>3. Pathology: Tissue specimens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sanitary sewer (lab sink). b. Rigid puncture-resistant container (e.g. sharps container). c. Discard sharps container into Biohazardous Waste container. a. Sanitary sewer (lab sink) b. Rigid puncture-resistant container (e.g. sharps container) c. Discard into Biohazardous Waste box lined with red biohazard bag. d. Discard into regular waste. 3. Secure in plastic bag or other leak-proof container. Discard into Pathological Waste container lined with red biohazard bag. The

DEFINITION	DISPOSAL METHOD
	container is labeled Pathological Waste.

REFERENCES

Medical Waste Management Act California Health and Safety Code Sections 117600 – 118360 California Department of Health Services Medical Waste Management Program P.O. Box 997413, MS 7405 Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

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