

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

HAZARDOUS WASTE PICK-UP AND DISPOSAL

Effective Date:	06/1993	Policy No:	FA06
Cross Referenced:		Origin:	Environmental Svcs.
Reviewed Date:	02/99, 04/05, 02/08, 01/11, 2/16	Authority:	COO
Revised Date:	01/11	Page:	1 of 5

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW)

The handling of RMW is controlled by State and Federal Regulations. Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC) will make every effort to maintain compliance with these regulations. The area of law that controls our operations is contained in NJAC 7:26-3A and 40 CFR 259. The requirements of these regulations were used to develop hospital policy for handling RMW. Accomplishment of the following policy will result in compliance with State and Federal requirements.

The EPA identifies seven classes of RMW as follows:

- Class 1* - Cultures and stocks
- Class 2* - Pathological wastes
- Class 3* - Human blood/blood products
- Class 4* - Sharps
- Class 5* - Animal waste
- Class 6* - Isolation waste
- Class 7* - Unused sharps

Definition of Regulated Medical Waste

1. Regulated Medical Waste (RMW)

Is any solid waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment (for example, provision of medical services) or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals that is not excluded or exempted under the classification listed below.

a) Cultures & Stocks

Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures.

b) Pathological Waste

Human pathological waste, including tissues, organs, and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery or autopsy, or other medical procedures and specimens of body fluids and their containers.

c) Human Blood and Blood Products

Liquid waste – human blood, products from blood, items saturated and/or dripping with human blood, or items that were saturated and/or dripping with human blood that are now caked and dried human blood, including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers, which were used or intended for use in either patient care, testing and laboratory analysis or the development of pharmaceuticals. Intravenous base are also included in this category.

d) Sharps

Sharps that have been used in animal or human patient care or treatment or in medical research or industrial labs, including hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needles), Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing, and culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips.

e) Animal Waste

Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biologicals or testing of pharmaceuticals.

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f) Isolation Waste

Biological wastes and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretion from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable diseases, or isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases.

g) Unused Sharps

The following unused, discarded sharps, hypodermic needles, suture needles, syringes and scalpel blades.

In-House Transportation

RMW will go in red bags and will be transported in a covered truck from generation areas to sort/storage area, located near loading dock. Personnel handling waste will wear gloves impervious to fluid. Each red bag transported to the sort area will be preprinted identifying the hospital's name, address, phone number, generator number and contact.

Weighing

The hauler will weigh RMW and log onto manifest.

Logging

The hospital will maintain a log of all RMW generated, treated or disposed of on-site (sewer or incineration) or sent off site for disposal on forms required by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Storage

All boxed RMW will be stored in the approved area while awaiting shipment. This area is located near the compactor. Access is restricted to authorized personnel by a locked access door.

Labeling

Each outer container offered for off-site shipment, each sharp container, each fluid container must be labeled with the universal biohazard sticker or tape.

Marking

Each outer container offered for off-site shipment, each sharp container, each fluid container must be marked with a water resistant tag containing the hospital's name, address and NJDEP registration number.

NJDEP Tracking Forms (Manifest)

The NJDEP Tracking Form is a 4-part document. The generator completes boxes 1-15, verifying the information by signing box 15. The generator retains goldenrod color copy (page 4). The remaining three copies are given to the transporter who will retain the pink color copy (page 3). The destination facility received two copies (white and yellow) with the waste shipment. The yellow copy (page 2) is retained by the destination facility. The white copy (page 1 or original) is mailed to the generator to verify that the waste shipment was received and properly disposed of at the destination facility.

Receipt of Completed Copy of Tracking Form

Contact the owner/operator of the destination facility, transporter or intermediate handler, as appropriate, if a copy of the completed Tracking Form was not received from the ultimate destination facility within 36 days of acceptance of the waste by the initial transporter, the hauler must be notified and supply us with original or a copy of original form.

Generator Exception Report

Submit a generator exception report to the NJDEP and USEPA Regional Administrator if the generator does not receive a

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completed copy of the Tracking Form signed by the owner operator of the destination facility within 45 days of the date the waste was accepted by the initial transporter.

Physician's RMW

As of May 1, 1999 the hospital discontinued the direct handling of Physicians' RMW. Physicians were notified to contract directly with our medical waste hauler, Stericycle.

Physician's Log

Physicians will now be responsible for there own NJDEP tracking forms.

Chemotherapy Waste

1. Yellow bags/containers of chemotherapy waste will be clearly marked "Chemotherapy Waste."
2. Linen will be placed in yellow plastic bag and marked with "Chemotherapy" label.
3. Chemotherapy exposed trash and linen will be picked up by designated member of Environmental Services on a daily basis.

Cytotoxic Spills

Please refer to Nursing Services, Policy/Procedure - Chapter I, Chemotherapy Standards.

Radioactive Waste

Radioactive Waste Disposal procedures are described and maintained in the Department of Nuclear Medicine. Defined below is a basic outline of this process. For more detailed information, please refer to the Department of Nuclear Medicine Policy/Procedure Manual, #7150.1.15.1.

1. Radioactive waste is stored in hot waste containers in the hot lab.
2. No other trash is to be discarded in hot waste containers except materials used in handling radioactive materials (gloves, wipe, etc.).
3. Radioactive syringes are to be stored in the designated area of the hot lab immediately after use. Syringes are stored until they have decayed at least 10 physical half-lives.
4. HRMC utilizes GE Healthcare as a radiopharmacy. GE Healthcare supplies the Nuclear Medicine Department with exact doses/patient/day. The doses are delivered by appropriate radio-isotope carrier, directly to the department and any excess radioactive materials are returned to GE Healthcare for disposal and/or credit. A copy of the State and Federal license is kept on file at GE Healthcare.
5. As of December 2007, HRMC has discontinued the use of the Radiation Detector (Bicron). It was recommended by the hospital's physicist and the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Needles/Syringes and Related Supplies

The appropriate methods for disposal of needles and syringes are described in the Exposure Control Plan for OHSA's Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens. This plan is located in each department's Safety Manual.

1. Used hypodermic supplies will be disposed of intact and without recapping.
2. Rigid containers for collection will be placed in each area using these supplies.
3. Filled containers are collected weekly by outside vendor, Daniels Sharpsmart.
4. Containers are transported from the areas to Central Services Soiled Area.
5. When a sharps container gets full between services, the Environmental Services Department staff will exchange and store it in a secure closet until it is picked up by Daniels Sharpsmart.

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LABORATORY WASTE

Solid Waste

1. Lab waste is bagged and tied.
2. Transported in covered cart to compactor area.
3. Solid waste is compacted and hauled by authorized vendor to municipal incinerator.

Medical Waste

Each work area within the lab is provided with waste containers labeled "Biohazard".

All lab waste is collected in impervious containers at point of origin.

1. Lab waste is collected twice daily in a separate cart labeled "Biohazard".
2. All lab waste is taken to the RMW processing/holding area.
3. Under no circumstances is lab waste to be placed in the compactor

Surgical and Autopsy Specimens

1. All specimens are double-bagged and placed in boxes.
2. Specimens are stored in the morgue refrigerator until disposal is authorized.
3. Once authorized, Environmental Services will pick up medical waste.
4. The RMW specimens are transported to the RMW processing/holding area for pickup by authorized Hauler.

Compressed Gas Cylinders (Disposable)

1. All cylinders are bled completely when empty.
2. Empty containers are segregated from other refuse.
3. Cylinders are collected by Environmental Services personnel separate from routine waste collection.
4. Cylinders are placed in the compactor for removal to an approved landfill.

Compressed Gas Cylinders (Rental)

The following gases: acetylene, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, helium, nitrogen, nitrous oxide and oxygen are maintained in tank room and tank cabinets.

1. On an as needed basis, they are ordered from the vendor.
2. The cylinders are the property of the vendor; the hospital pays a monthly demurrage charge and a cost to have the cylinder refilled.
3. Departments request cylinders from storeroom as the need arises.
4. Cylinders are delivered to the department by a storeroom clerk who returns the depleted tank to the storeroom.
5. All depleted tanks are stored in storeroom and returned to the vendor on their next delivery date.
6. Cylinders are delivered to the hospital on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Infection Control

Please refer to Infection Control's Policy/Procedure Manual for the policies on Hand washing; Handling of Contaminated Needles/Sharps; Work Area Restrictions; Handling of Specimens; Contaminated Equipment; Medical Waste; and Laundry.

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WASTE ITEMS AND APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL

WASTE ITEM	SHARPS CONTAINER	RED BAG	CLEAR BAG	YELLOW BAG
Needles/Syringes	√			
Lancets	√			
Sutures	√			
Scalpels	√			
Scissors	√			
Specimen tubes, used/unused	√			
Broken Glass	√			
Slides fixed or unfixed	√			
IV Catheters	√			
Pathological Waste		√		
Isolation Waste		√		
Gloves, gowns, masks (saturated w/blood)		√		
Wet/Bloody Gauze or Dressings		√		
Sump Tubes		√		
Blood Bags		√		
Hemodialysis tubings		√		
IV lines and bags (with blood)		√		
Pleuro-Vacs, Hemovacs		√		
Suction Canisters		√		
Bedpans, urinals, emesis basins			√	
Ventilator tubing			√	
Foley catheters and bags			√	
IV lines and bags (without blood)			√	
Gauze or dressings (without blood)			√	
Chux			√	
Diapers			√	
ET tubes and suction catheters			√	
Gloves, gowns, masks (without blood)			√	
Medication vials (non-chemo)			√	
Guac cards			√	

Approved at President's Council
2/29/2016

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Any Solid Waste or Regulated Medical Waste with Traces of Chemotherapy				√