

## YAKIMA NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH SERVICES

### **Waste Management Plan**

It is the procedure of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS) to maintain a waste management system that identifies types of waste, how to handle, store, and appropriately dispose of all waste according to current standards of applicable governing agencies that regulate hazardous materials and waste.

#### Definitions:

Regulated waste includes:

Regulated waste refers to liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; items contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material that would release these substances in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling.

Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious material.

Other Potentially Infected Material such as:

Cerebrospinal fluid

Pleural fluid

Synovial fluid

Pericardial fluid

Peritoneal fluid

Amniotic fluid

Vaginal secretions

Semen

Saliva in dental procedures

Any unidentified fluid that could contain blood

Sharps: Devices with physical characteristics capable of puncturing, lacerating, or otherwise penetrating the skin and are contaminated. Included in this definition are any sharps used in patient care such as

hypodermic needles,

syringes (with or without needles attached),

scalpel blades,

test tubes,

blood vials,

broken or unbroken glass which may have been in contact with blood or other infectious materials.

Solid waste includes:

Gloves

Dip sticks

Cotton balls

Band-Aids

Cath tubes (if not labeled with PHI)

IV tubing (if not labeled with PHI)

Chucks

And all other waste not classified regulated (see miscellaneous waste)

NOTE: If any of the items listed as solid waste become contaminated following the definition in #1, they must then be considered regulated waste.

Point of origin: The room or area where the waste is generated. Examples include exam rooms, procedure rooms and operatories

### Handling of Waste

Inspect and decontaminate, on a regular basis, reusable receptacles such as bins, pails, and cans that have the likelihood for becoming contaminated. When contamination is visible, clean and decontaminate receptacles immediately, or as soon as feasible.

Always use mechanical means, such as tongs, forceps, or a brush and a dustpan to pick up contaminated broken glassware; never pick up with hands even if gloves are worn.

Place regulated waste in a closable and labeled, or color-coded, container. When storing, handling, transporting, or shipping, place regulated waste in containers that are constructed to prevent leakage.

When discarding contaminated sharps, place them in containers that are closable, puncture resistant, appropriately labeled or color-coded and leak proof on the sides and bottom.

Ensure that sharps containers are easily accessible to personnel and located as close as is feasible to the immediate area where sharps are used or can be reasonably anticipated to be found. Sharps containers also must be kept upright throughout use, replaced routinely, closed when moved, and not allowed to overfill.

Never manually open, empty, or clean reusable contaminated sharps disposal containers.

Handle contaminated laundry as little as possible and with minimum of agitation.

Use appropriate personal protective equipment (ppe) when handling contaminated laundry.

Bag wet and/or contaminated laundry in a red bio bag, at its point of origin, before transporting.

Never sort or rinse contaminated laundry in areas of use.

Labels may not be required when

red bags or red containers are used,

containers of blood, blood components, or blood products are labeled as to their contents and have been released for transfusion or other clinical use, and

individual containers of blood and other potentially infectious materials are placed in a labeled container during storage, transport, shipment, or disposal.

### Waste Disposal

Regulated biohazardous waste

All non-sharp regulated waste is to be segregated from solid waste at its point of origin and deposited into containers lined with a red biohazard bag, identified with a biohazard symbol and the word BIOHAZARD.

All waste items classified as sharps should be placed immediately into puncture resistant, leak-proof containers.

Staff who participate in regulated waste disposal procedures should be trained in said procedures by staff versed in the process.

Regulated non-sharps biohazardous waste container procedure:

Regulated waste containers are disposed of on a regularly scheduled basis.

1. Designated staff prepare biohazard containers for use and disposal. This may include labeling, preparing the box and bag and removal to temporary storage. (See Appendix C, Infectious Waste Container Tracking Log). (See Appendix P, YNHS INFECTIOUS WASTE TRACKING STICKERS)



2. Storage of regulated waste must be in an area away from general traffic flow patterns and accessible only to authorized personnel.
3. Regulated waste should be disposed of following federal, state and local regulations.
4. Verification of disposal should be obtained.

Other waste requiring special handling:

Other waste requiring special handling is collected, stored, and labeled appropriately. Hazardous waste should be disposed of with approved Hazardous Waste Disposal sites/companies.

- a) Amalgam (See Appendix Z, HANDLING, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP AMALGAM)
- b) Batteries: Used household, watch and cellular phone batteries can be disposed of in designated white buckets labeled Battery Recycling located. Once filled, contact the Facilities Assistants who will arrange for disposal and replacement bucket.
- c) Lead: Lead aprons that are cracked or fail annual testing are disposed of at the Yakima County Hazardous Waste Disposal site.
- d) Light bulbs:
  - (1) Includes, but is not limited to, all types of fluorescent lamps, mercury vapor, metal halide, high-pressure sodium and neon lamps.
  - (2) Dispose of at Yakima County Hazardous Waste Facility
- e) Mercury:
  - (1) Obtain Mercury spill kit.
  - (2) Follow the manufacturer's directions for protective equipment and disposal.
- f) Expired or returned medications (see Medication Management Guidelines for proper handling and disposal)
- g) Other chemicals are disposed of per manufacturer or SDS guidelines.

Biohazard spill clean-up procedure:

Surfaces contaminated with spilled or leaked biohazardous waste will be cleaned using absorbent materials and the surface disinfected per protocol (See Appendix D, HAZARDOUS SPILL CLEANUP PROCEDURE).

Biohazard sharp container procedure:

YNHS sharp containers are wall mounted or portable and designated with a Biohazardous label. Sharp containers are to be disposed of when fill line is reached. They are to be locked and disposed of in a biohazard waste container.

Solid Waste Disposal

Universal precautions to be observed.

Wear gloves

Hold away from your body

Use a "garden claw" or other tool to compact solid waste. Do not crush down with your hands

Wash hands after disposing

Solid waste placed in secured location and removed by contracted waste disposal company per agreement.

*Excerpted from Safety and Emergency Management Guide*