

IC9: 0300 Waste Management: General and Biomedical

1.0 STANDARD

All staff shall dispose of garbage safely and in a manner that prevents the transmission of microorganisms.

Staff shall follow Routine Practices when handling waste.

All waste shall be collected, stored and transported according to local, provincial and federal regulations

2.0 DEFINITION

Biomedical Waste includes;

- Blood products, blood contaminated body fluids, items saturated and dripping with blood
- Used sharps: needles, blades, syringes and full sharps containers
- Body fluid filled containers that cannot be emptied e.g. disposable suction bottles, VAC containers
- Microbiologic wastes such as live or attenuated vaccines, culture stocks or specimens of microorganisms

3.0 PROCEDURE

- Wear gloves or other PPE as needed when handling waste
- Line all general waste containers with leak proof plastic bags
- Do not compact waste in bags with hands or feet.
- Broken glass must be placed into puncture-resistant containers
- Securely close and remove waste containers when visibly full and per facility routine.
- Replace sharps boxes when filled to manufacturer's 'fill line' (3/4 full)
- Report and document any sharps found in the general waste containers
- Treat biomedical waste in the approved manner using color-coded bags or puncture-resistant boxes labeled 'Biohazardous'.
- Transport closed waste bags/containers to the collection areas for outside disposal
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Maintain and secure the waste collection areas in a manner that discourages flies and rodents.

4.0 REFERENCE

Federal:

1. Guidelines for the Management of Biomedical Waste in Canada, Feb 1992
2. CSA Handling of Waste Materials in Health Care Facilities and Veterinary Health Care Facilities March 2001 (Z317.10-01)
3. Packaging of Infectious Substances, Diagnostic Specimens, Biologic Products and Biomedical Waste for Transport CAN/CGSB-43.125-99
4. Guidelines for the Handling and Disposal of Hazardous Pharmaceuticals (including Cytotoxic drugs) 1997

Provincial:

1. BC Waste Management Act
2. BC Environmental Assessment Act
3. BC Special Waste Regulations
4. BC Spill Reporting Regulations