

# Medical Waste, Handling of

## Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a definition of and guidelines for the safe and appropriate handling of medical waste.

## Preparation

1. Assemble the equipment and supplies as needed.

## General Guidelines

1. For the purpose of this policy, medical waste includes human blood and blood-soiled articles, contaminated items (i.e., soiled dressings), items contaminated with feces from a person diagnosed as having a disease that is transmitted through feces, and disposable sharps (i.e., needles/scalpels).
2. All sharps must be handled as medical waste, placed in approved sharps containers, and sent for eventual incineration.
3. Liquid blood, excretions, and secretions shall be flushed into the sewer system.
4. Disposable items, which are contaminated with excretions or secretions from residents believed to be infectious, must be placed in red plastic bags and sealed, and either decontaminated with bleach (1:10 or 1:100 dilution), incinerated, or stored until removal from the premises.
5. Disposable items soiled with visible blood (or feces from a resident with a disease transmitted through feces) must be placed in red plastic bags or containers, and a solution of one (1) part bleach and nine (9) parts water added to saturate the items or the items must be incinerated.
6. Outside compactor/dumpster must be maintained according to the disposal company's policy when not in use and at night.
7. Only authorized vendors are permitted to collect regulated wastes.

## Equipment and Supplies

The following equipment and supplies will be necessary when performing this procedure.

1. Sharps container;
2. Red plastic bag;
3. Bleach solution;
4. "BIOHAZARD" label (if red bags or containers are not used); and
5. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gowns, gloves, mask, etc., as needed).