

Section 5: Medical Waste



Medical Waste Outline



Medical Waste Management Act

Labeling and Storage Guidelines

Small Quantity Generators vs Large Quantity Generators

Medical Waste Treatment

Common Violations for Medical Waste

MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT HAS BEEN UPDATED

Ensure that your facility is using the most recent version for reference:

JANUARY 2017

**CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
SECTIONS 117600 - 118360**

DEFINITION OF MEDICAL WASTE

Generally, medical waste is defined in the Medical Waste Management Act as waste that has been determined to be **infectious or potentially infectious to human beings**.

Please refer to the Medical Waste Management Act for a more detailed definition of medical waste.

Be advised that other regulatory agencies and/or professional organizations may have more stringent definitions of medical waste.



MEDICAL WASTE LABELING

All medical waste containers/bags are required to have a generator label on the outside of the container immediately upon use (NOT when ready for disposal or after the bag is tied off)

A generator label includes:

- **Facility name**
- **Address**
- **Phone number**

**A business
card works!**



*Refer to the guidance document in the notes section for a helpful chart

MEDICAL WASTE BAGS AND CONTAINERS

Biohazardous red bags must be:

- Puncture-resistant
- Contained in a rigid, leak-proof container in good repair
- Tied off after being filled to prevent expulsion of contents
- Labeled with a generator label on the outside of the bag *at the point of generation*

Sharps containers must be:

- Rigid, puncture-resistant, leak-resistant
- Resistant to opening after being sealed
- Labeled with a generator label *at the point of generation*

BENCHTOP STORAGE

Small biohazardous “benchtop” red bags used to collect non-breakable pipette tips do not need to have a generator information label.



PROPER USE OF RED BAGS



Waste stored in **biohazardous red bags** will be presumed **biohazardous waste**

Do NOT use red bags as municipal trash bags. If a **biohazardous red bag** is found at the landfill (without heat treatment tape), the source of the red bag will be investigated.



MEDICAL WASTE TIME LIMITS

WASTE STORAGE TIME LIMITS

Amount of medical waste stored at room temperature unless otherwise specified	BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE	SHARPS WASTE READY FOR DISPOSAL	NON-RCRA PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE READY FOR DISPOSAL	PATHOLOGY WASTE	TRACE CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE
<20 lbs/month	30 days	30 days	-	30 days	Manage as sharps or biohazardous waste according to the type of container used for storage and the type of waste.
≥20 lbs/month	7 days	30 days	-	7 days	
≥200 lbs/month	7 days	30 days	-	7 days	
Stored below 0° C (32°F)	90 days	90 days	-	90 days	
Any amount of Non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste	-	-	90 days when ready for disposal, or at least once per year	-	-

MEDICAL WASTE GENERATOR STATUS

	Small Quantity Generator (<200 pounds/month)	Large Quantity Generator (>200 pounds/month)
Medical Waste Management Plan	Required only if treating medical waste on site	Required
Medical Waste Tracking Record Retention	3 years	2 years

Training records are required if your facility treats medical waste on site.

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste can be managed as medical waste

Examples of non-RCRA pharmaceutical waste:

- Ibuprofen
- Propofol

RCRA pharmaceutical waste must be managed according to **hazardous waste** standards

Examples of RCRA pharmaceutical waste:

- Nicotine
- Arsenic Trioxide
- Warfarin
- Coumadin



TRACE CHEMO WASTE

Trace chemotherapy waste (<3% by weight) must be managed as medical waste

- Use sharps containers or yellow bags, depending on waste material

Bulk chemotherapy waste (>3% by weight) must be managed according to **hazardous waste** standards

- Use hazardous waste standards for labeling and storage



REMINDER!

Medical waste must be reported through CERS if generated in **ANY AMOUNT**

This includes biohazardous liquid waste that is treated with bleach solution and disposed to sewer

MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT

If your facility treats medical waste through an autoclave, the following information will be verified during inspection:



Annual thermometer calibration records (for autoclave in use)



Monthly biological indicator testing records



Standard operating procedures (for autoclave)



Heat sensitive tape observed in use



Medical Waste Management Plan on-site available for review



Records of treatment: logs of dates/times/temperatures




Training records (if large quantity generator of medical waste)

If your facility is a Large Quantity Generator of medical waste and you treat your medical waste, you are required to obtain, before treating the waste, a **medical waste treatment permit** with the Hazardous Materials Division

MEDICAL SOLID WASTE SECURITY

Per **SDCC 68.1211**, medical **SOLID WASTE** must be secured against unauthorized access.

“Medical solid waste shall include, but not be limited to, waste such as empty specimen containers, bandages, dressings containing non-liquid blood, surgical gloves, decontaminated biohazardous waste, and other materials which are not biohazardous.”



Medical SOLID WASTE may be secured by having a securely locked dumpster, by implementing a policy wherein trash is only taken out on trash pick up day, or by otherwise demonstrating that your medical SOLID WASTE is secured.

COMMON MEDICAL WASTE VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION: Primary containers accumulating MW not labeled with generator's name, address, and phone number (SDCC 68.1205)

VIOLATION: Biohazardous red bag waste stored >7 days at >0C (for generators of >20 lbs/month). HSC 118280(e)(1)(A)

Generator's Label

(Must include this information):

Name: I. M. Sharp, DDS
Address: 123 Needle Stick Drive
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone #: (619) 123-4567



COMMON MEDICAL WASTE VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION: MW designated accumulation area not posted with an approved, legible biohazardous waste “warning sign” in English and Spanish which can be read from 25 ft (**HSC 118310**)

VIOLATION: Medical SOLID WASTE not secured to deny unauthorized persons (**SDCC 68.1211**)

CAUTION
BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT

CUIDADO
ZONA DE RESIDUOS BIOLÓGICOS PELIGROSOS
PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS
NO AUTORIZADAS



COMMON MEDICAL WASTE VIOLATIONS

VIOLATION: MWMP not submitted to HMD (initial/updates) (LQG or treatment only) (HSC 117935, 118032, 117960, 117970)



County of San Diego

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Medical Waste Management Plan

END OF SECTION