



DEDER GENERAL HOSPITAL

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Healthcare Waste Management

Version: 1.0

Effective Date: January 20, 2024

Review Date: January 20, 2026

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January 2024

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this SOP is to outline procedures for the effective management of healthcare waste, ensuring safety, compliance with regulations, and protection of human health and the environment.

2. Scope

This SOP is applicable to all healthcare **facilities, including hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and any other entities generating healthcare waste**. It addresses all types of healthcare waste, including general waste, infectious waste, hazardous chemical waste, and radioactive waste.

3. Definitions

- 🚫 **Healthcare Waste (HCW):** Waste generated in healthcare settings including hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and other medical institutions.
- 🚫 **Infectious Waste:** Waste contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- 🚫 **Hazardous Waste:** Waste that poses a risk to health or the environment due to its chemical or physical properties, including sharps and radioactive materials.

4. Categories of Healthcare Waste

1. **General Waste:** Non-hazardous waste that is similar to domestic waste (e.g., paper, food waste).
2. **Infectious Waste:** Waste that is suspected to be contaminated with pathogens (e.g., used bandages, gloves).
3. **Sharps:** Items that can puncture or cut skin (e.g., needles, blades).
4. **Pharmaceutical Waste:** Expired, unused, or contaminated medications.
5. **Chemical Waste:** Discarded chemicals, including disinfectants and solvents.
6. **Radioactive Waste:** Materials contaminated with radioactive substances.

5. Responsibilities

- ✎ **Healthcare Workers:** Responsible for correctly segregating waste at the point of generation, using appropriate PPE, and reporting any incidents.
- ✎ **Waste Management Team:** Ensures the proper collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of healthcare waste.
- ✎ **Infection Control Officer:** Oversees waste management practices and ensures adherence to infection control protocols.
- ✎ **Management:** Provides necessary resources, training, and infrastructure to support effective waste management.

6. Procedures

6.1. Waste Segregation

- **At Source:** Waste must be segregated into appropriate categories at the point of generation.
 - ✎ **General Waste:** Dispose of in black or green containers.
 - ✎ **Infectious Waste:** Use yellow containers or bags.
 - ✎ **Sharps:** Collect in puncture-proof red containers.

- ✎ **Pharmaceutical Waste:** Use blue containers for non-hazardous drugs and white containers for hazardous drugs.
- ✎ **Chemical Waste:** Store in brown containers.
- ✎ **Radioactive Waste:** Use containers with radiation symbols and appropriate labeling.

Labeling: Containers must be clearly labeled with the type of waste, date, and the department of origin.

6.2. Collection and Handling

- ✎ **Collection Frequency:** Waste should be collected at least once per day. Sharps and infectious waste may require more frequent collection.
- ✎ **PPE Requirements:** Personnel must wear gloves, aprons, and masks during waste handling.
- ✎ **No Manual Sorting:** Manual sorting of waste is prohibited after collection.

6.3. Waste Storage

- ✎ **Storage Areas:** Designate separate storage areas for different types of waste. Ensure these areas are well-ventilated and isolated from patient care areas.
- ✎ **Storage Time Limits:**
 - ✎ **Infectious Waste:** 24-48 hours.
 - ✎ **Non-Hazardous Waste:** Up to 72 hours.
 - ✎ **Chemical Waste:** Based on Safety Data Sheet (SDS) guidelines.
 - ✎ **Radioactive Waste:** As per regulatory guidelines.

6.4. Transportation

- ✎ **Internal Transportation:** Use closed trolleys or carts with clear labeling for moving waste from collection points to storage areas.
- ✎ **External Transportation:** Engage licensed waste transporters with permits for handling hazardous waste.
- ✎ **Documentation:** Maintain records of waste transportation, including time, type, quantity, and handler details.

6.5. Treatment

- ✎ **Infectious Waste:** Treat using incineration, autoclaving, or other approved methods.
- ✎ **Sharps:** Sterilize and shred before disposal.
- ✎ **Pharmaceutical Waste:** Dispose of through incineration or other high-temperature destruction methods.
- ✎ **Chemical Waste:** Neutralize or dispose of at facilities equipped for hazardous waste.
- ✎ **Radioactive Waste:** Store until radioactive decay reduces it to safe levels, then dispose of in compliance with regulations.

6.6. Disposal

- ✎ **Disposal Sites:** Ensure waste is disposed of at authorized sanitary landfills, incinerators, or recycling facilities.
- ✎ **Monitoring:** Track waste from generation to final disposal and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

7. Training and Awareness

- ✎ **Training Programs:** All staff must undergo annual training on waste segregation, handling procedures, and safety protocols.
- ✎ **Signage:** Place clear signs and posters in all relevant areas to reinforce proper waste disposal practices.

8. Emergency Procedures

- ✎ **Spill Response:** In case of spillage, immediately secure the area, contain the spill, and clean it using appropriate disinfectants. Report the incident to the Infection Control Officer.
- ✎ **Injury Response:** In case of injuries from sharps or exposure to hazardous materials, seek medical attention immediately and report the incident according to facility protocols.

9. Record Keeping and Documentation

- ✎ **Records:** Maintain detailed records of waste quantities, treatment, disposal, and any incidents. Ensure accurate documentation for regulatory compliance and auditing purposes.

10. Monitoring and Auditing

- ✎ **Audits:** Conduct regular internal and external audits of waste management practices to ensure compliance and identify areas for improvement.
- ✎ **Corrective Actions:** Implement corrective actions based on audit findings and incident reports to address any deficiencies.

11. Compliance and Regulations

Adhere to national and local regulations concerning healthcare waste management, including environmental and occupational health and safety guidelines.

12. Review of SOP

This SOP should be reviewed and updated every 2 years or as needed to reflect changes in regulations, procedures, or facility policies.

13. References

1. World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities.
2. Local healthcare waste management laws and regulations.