



Policy: PA.1005  
Title: **Collection, Storage, and Removal of Waste**  
Department: CalOptima Health PACE  
Section: Not Applicable

CEO Approval: /s/ Michael Hunn 03/06/2025

Effective Date: 10/01/2013

Revised Date: 03/01/2025

Applicable to: ☐ Medi-Cal  
☐ OneCare  
☒ PACE  
☐ Administrative

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## I. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the requirements and procedures that the CalOptima Health Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Center employees will follow to remove and dispose of solid waste, biohazardous waste, and chemicals appropriately and safely.

## II. POLICY

A. Employees at the CalOptima Health PACE Center shall maintain a clean environment, in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations regarding removal of waste.

## III. PROCEDURE

A. CalOptima Health PACE Center shall meet requirements for removal of solid waste as follows:

1. Solid waste shall be stored, located, and disposed of in a manner that will not permit the transmission of communicable diseases or odors, create a nuisance, or provide a breeding place or food source for insects, rodents, or other vermin;
2. Syringes and needles shall never be re-sheathed and shall be placed in a puncture resistant sharps container after use;
3. Each waste container used for storage of solid waste shall have tight-fitting covers, in good repair, and external handles, and shall be leak proof and rodent-proof;
4. Movable bins, when used for storing or transporting solid waste from the CalOptima Health PACE Center, shall have tight-fitting covers, in good repair, and be rodent-proof unless stored in a room or screened enclosure;
5. Solid waste containers, including movable bins, receiving putrescible waste shall be emptied at least once per week, or more often if necessary. Such containers shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition; and
6. Each movable bin shall provide for suitable access and a drainage device to allow complete cleaning at the storage area.

- B. CalOptima Health PACE Center shall meet requirements for removal of biohazardous waste and chemicals as follows:
1. Collect biohazardous waste and chemicals in red lidded bins, with appropriate signage, operated by a foot pedal, and placed throughout the CalOptima Health PACE Center clinic and in personal care areas.
  2. Line biohazard bins with red bags, and have bins cleaned by a cleaning vendor.
  3. Remove red bagged trash from the CalOptima Health PACE Center clinic and personal care areas (by clinic employees and caregivers) at the end of each business day.
  4. Store red bags with trash in the biohazardous/medical waste closet(s), within the rubber bin with a tight-fitting lid provided by the waste removal vendor. The clinic nursing employees are responsible for monitoring the removal of the containers.
  5. Remove sharps containers from the clinic and store in the biohazardous/medical waste closet(s) when containers are two-thirds (2/3) full.
  6. Keep biohazardous/medical waste closets locked at all times.
  7. Tape shut and label full containers with supplies provided by the waste removal vendor.
  8. Order supplies as needed from the vendor. The vendor is responsible for providing all necessary supplies for removal of waste.
  9. Ensure that biohazardous waste is removed from the CalOptima Health PACE Center on a regular monthly schedule, or more often, as needed. The waste removal vendor is responsible for picking up containers from each CalOptima Health PACE Center.
- C. Monitoring of solid waste, biohazardous waste, and chemicals:
1. The CalOptima Health PACE Medical Director, or designee, shall conduct periodic clinic safety checks to ensure compliance with clinic waste storage and removal requirements, in accordance with this policy.

**IV. ATTACHMENT(S)**

Not Applicable

**V. REFERENCE(S)**

- A. CalOptima Health PACE Program Agreement
- B. Orange County Health Care Agency, Environmental Health Standards
- C. Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §78513
- D. Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §460.74

**VI. REGULATORY AGENCY APPROVAL(S)**

None to Date

**VII. BOARD ACTION(S)**

None to Date

## VIII. REVISION HISTORY

Action	Date	Policy	Policy Title	Program(s)
Effective	10/01/2013	PA.1005	Collection, Storage, and Removal	PACE
Revised	10/01/2014	PA.1005	Collection, Storage, and Removal of Waste	PACE
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Revised	05/01/2024	PA.1005	Collection, Storage and Removal of Waste	PACE
Revised	03/01/2025	PA.1005	Collection, Storage and Removal of Waste	PACE

## IX. GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
PACE Center	The location designated by CalOptima Health PACE at which Participants shall receive PCP services.