

Section: Medical Operations General
Subject: MEDICAL WASTE
Section #: 300.11
Issue Date: March 21, 2011
Revision Date:
Approved By:

Page 1 of 2

Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director



1. **BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE – GENERAL**

- a. All contaminated linen, sharps or medical waste shall only be disposed of in properly marked and provided for containers.
 - i. At **NO** time shall any type of contaminated medical waste be disposed of in a non-medical trash container.
- b. All non-medical waste will be discarded in properly marked containers.
 - i. **DO NOT** discard non-bio-hazardous waste in a biohazard container (doing this increases the cost of disposal to taxpayers).
- c. Any contaminated non-disposable stretcher linens/towels shall be left at hospitals in properly designated receptacles as designated by the facility.
- d. All contaminated patient clothing/belongings shall be placed in red bags and turned over to the ER or transporting unit along with the patient.

2. **BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE – NON SHARPS**

- a. All HCFR ALS units, transport capable or otherwise, shall have at least one (1) bio-hazardous waste receptacle with a red bag.
 - i. On transport units this container shall be kept in the patient compartment.
 - ii. Sufficient spare red plastic biohazard bags shall be maintained on the unit for replacement and for securing a reasonable amount of unexpected bio-hazardous waste.
- b. All waste contaminated with potentially contaminated bodily fluids or substances shall be placed in containers lined with a red bag.

3. **BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE – SHARPS**

- a. All sharps will be disposed of in an appropriate sharps container.
 - i. All HCFR ALS transport units shall maintain at least two of the large sharps containers appropriately secured in the patient compartment in addition to any other sized containers necessary to ensure that all built-in sharps storage areas are properly equipped.
 - ii. All HCFR ALS non-transport units shall maintain one (1) large sharps container for the disposal of large items.
 - iii. All HCFR medical bags, whether on an ALS or BLS capable unit, shall be maintained with at least one (1) of the small sharps containers for the disposal of small needles/lancets.
- b. No sharps containers will be left at hospitals for disposal.

4. **FIRE STATION STORAGE**

- a. All contaminated sharps containers and medical waste shall be secured in a designated area of the station away from the general activity areas of members and secured from any visiting person.
- b. All medical waste shall be placed in the appropriate, department provided, disposal containers.
 - i. Once provided containers are full (not overfull) they shall be closed and sealed with provided packing tape.
- c. Once Sharps containers are full they shall have their lids closed securely and then wrapped with packing tape to ensure the lid stays in place.

Section: Medical Operations General
Subject: MEDICAL WASTE
Section #: 300.11
Issue Date: March 21, 2011
Revision Date:
Approved By:

Page 2 of 2

Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director



- i. Sharps containers shall be placed in the stations bio-hazardous secure area for pick-up.
- ii. Sharps containers shall NOT be placed inside the large cardboard disposal containers with other waste.

5. FIRE RESCUE HEADQUARTERS STORAGE

- a. All contaminated sharps containers and medical waste shall be secured in a designated area of the facility away from the general activity areas of members and secured from any visiting person.
- b. All medical waste shall be placed in the appropriate, department provided, disposal containers.
 - i. Once provided containers are full (not overfull) they shall be closed and sealed with provided packing tape.
- c. Once Sharps containers are full they shall have their lids closed securely and then wrapped with packing tape to ensure the lid stays in place.
- d. All waste shall remain secured to provide separation from all other routine activities until turned over to the waste disposal vendor.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTE

- a. HCFR facilities are not approved disposal sites for medical waste generated by the general public.
- b. Citizens requesting HCFR to take possession of medical waste shall be informed that we cannot take such waste and they should be directed to one of the following resources:
 - i. Hillsborough County Health & Social Services Department at:
 - 1. (813) 272-5040
 - ii. Florida Department of Health at:
 - 1. (850) 245-4250
 - iii. The Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at:
 - 1. (800) 643-1643