

Waste Disposal - Infection Control

Site Applicability

All PHC Acute and Long Term Care Sites.

Practice Level

Basic: All direct and indirect care staff

Standard

Employees will collect and dispose of waste materials according to facility-specific guidelines.

Waste will be disposed of in the correct receptacle according to its classification (see below). Containers used for waste containment will be large enough to hold all contents and will prevent leakage of fluids during handling, storage, transport and shipping.

Biomedical Waste

This includes any disposable items grossly soiled or that on compression leak blood or body fluids, human anatomical waste, suction liners, chest-drainage collections systems (e.g. Pleur-evacs), blood/specimen bags, sharps, etc.

Biomedical waste should be handled with appropriate [Personal Protective Equipment](#) (i.e., gloves as well as gowns and facial protection if splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids is anticipated).

Procedure:

- Place disposable items, excluding sharps, into yellow waste bags/containers in designated containers in a central receptacle on the patient/resident care unit.
- Place human and animal anatomical waste such as tissue or body parts in red waste bags/containers.
- For sharps, refer to [Sharps Safety guideline](#).
- Disposable containers filled with body fluids (i.e., chest-drainage collections systems, disposable suction liners) will not be emptied.
- Double bagging is not necessary unless required to prevent leakage.

Regular Waste (non-biomedical waste)

This includes all other garbage and items not saturated with blood or body fluids, such as stationery, newspapers, paper towels, used containers, suction tubing, catheters, empty catheter bags, disposable pads, packaging, intravenous bags, diapers, gloves, soiled dressings, sponges, surgery drapes (unless saturated or dripping blood), and oxygen tubing.

Procedure:

- Place all regular waste or non-biomedical waste in black, green or white plastic bags in garbage cans located in the patient/resident's rooms and throughout the unit.
- Recycle paper, tin, glass and plastic according to building services guidelines and availability in area.

Related Documents

- [B-00-07-13088](#) - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13081](#) - Point of Care Risk Assessment - IPAC Best Practice Guideline
- [B-00-07-13045](#) - Routine Practices - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13037](#) - Sharps Safety and Prevention of Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines-H.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Guideline for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines-P.pdf>
- Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia. (2016). British Columbia Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings and Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/British-Columbia-Best-Practices-for-Environmental-Cleaning-for-Prevention-and-Control-of-Infections-in-All-Healthcare-Settings-and-Programs.pdf>
- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2017). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html>

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