

Infection Prevention and Control – Waste/sharps



Infection prevention and Control

- Health Technical Memorandum HTM 0701 Safe Management of Healthcare Waste: contains the regulatory waste management guidance including waste classification, segregation, storage, packaging, transport, treatment and disposal.
- The Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 outline the regulatory requirements for employers and contractors in the healthcare sector in relation to the safe disposal of sharps

Standard Infection Control Precautions Policy Version 2, September 2018

Infection prevention and Control

Categories of waste:

- Healthcare (including clinical) waste – is produced as a direct result of healthcare activities e.g. soiled dressings, sharps;
- Hazardous (or special) waste – arises from the delivery of healthcare in both clinical and non-clinical settings. Special waste includes a range of controlled wastes, defined by legislation, which contain dangerous or hazardous substances e.g. chemicals, pharmaceuticals;
- Domestic waste – waste similar in composition to waste from household premises e.g. paper towels.

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Black domestic waste such as tissues, packaging, food waste. Final disposal to Landfill.



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Yellow and Black stripes (Tiger stripe) - hygiene waste e.g nappies, incontinence pads, stoma bags. Final disposal to Landfill.



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Orange - consists of items which are contaminated or likely to be contaminated with infectious blood and/or body fluids. Final disposal following heat disinfection is to landfill.



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Yellow - Waste which poses ethical, highly infectious or contamination risks. Includes anatomical / human tissue which is recognisable as body parts. Disposal is by specialist incineration.



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Sharps with Medicinal residue



Sharps only



Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Sharps

Infection prevention and Control

- Take responsibility for the sharps that you use (2010/32/EU directive)
- Sign/date/site sharps bin
- Dispose of at source
- Never re-sheath
- Do not overfill
- Ensure temporary closure of sharps bin after each use
- Close bin lid securely before disposal
- If carried in car must be in a transport box.

