

 <p style="text-align: center;">County of Sacramento Department of Health Services Division of Primary Health Policy and Procedure</p>	Policy Issuer (Unit/Program)	JCH
	Policy Number	B02-1438a
	Effective Date	03-07
	Revision Date	07-19
Title: Medical Waste Disposal		Functional Area: Safety
Approved By: Pamela Gandy-Rosemond, MSN RN CCHP Health Administrator Approved By: Scarlett Ong, BSN RN Clinic Manager		

Policy:

The Juvenile Correctional Health (JCH) ensures that all regulated medical waste is separated, stored, contained, labeled and treated according to the California Medical Waste Management Act (Health and Safety Code 11760–118360).

Procedures:

A. General Definitions:

1. Medical waste is identified as bio-hazardous waste, certain hazardous waste, sharps waste, or pharmaceutical waste.
2. The medical waste may contain infectious agents, which is a type of microorganism, bacteria, mold, parasite, or virus that normally causes, or significantly contributes to increased morbidity or mortality to human beings.
3. Biohazardous waste includes, but is not limited to: laboratory waste, microbiology specimens, surgery specimens, infectious animal parts, waste with recognizable amounts of blood, infectious excreta or secretions from humans, bags with body fluids, saturated dressings, blood administration bag and tubing, and cultures and stocks of infectious agents.
4. Certain hazardous waste includes, but is not limited to the following: pathology waste and hazardous waste is contaminated with or having previously contained trace amounts of chemotherapeutics agents including, but not limited to, gloves, disposable gowns, towels, empty intravenous solution bags and tubing – chemotherapy waste (medication cups and containers).
5. Sharps waste means any device having acute rigid corners, edges or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including, but not limited to, all of the following: hypodermic needles, syringes, blades, slides, root canal files, orthodontic wires, needles with attached tubing, broken glass items, scalpels, and lancets.
6. Pharmaceutical waste includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, partial vials, IV bags, live and attenuated vaccines, and other liquid medication, which has no value, such as medication that cannot be dispensed, repacked, sold, redistributed, or returned for credit.

7. Medical waste does not include the following:
 - a. Waste generated from food processing and biotechnology that does not contain an infectious agent or blood,
 - b. Disposable products such as, paper towels, paper products, packaging, gloves, swabs, gauze, and other articles containing non-fluid blood, and other medical solid waste products commonly found in the facilities of medical waste generators.
 - c. Urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, or vomitus, unless it contains fluid blood.
 - d. Medical waste mixed with hazardous and radioactive waste are subject to statutes and regulations applicable to hazardous waste and radioactive waste.
 - e. Household waste.
 - f. Waste generated from normal and legal veterinarian, agricultural, and animal livestock management practices on a farm or ranch.
8. The following items are not considered to be sharps waste:
 - a. Disposable household razors.
 - b. Syringes without a needle attached and not contaminated with bio-hazardous waste.
 - c. Slides with beveled edges and rounder corners. However, if the slide is contaminated with bio-hazardous materials, it is bio-hazardous and shall be handled and treated accordingly.
 - d. Ear and body piercing and tattoo devices or instruments.
 - e. Needles and syringes from a household when generated by the householder and not a health care professional.
 - f. Broken glass not contaminated with bio-hazardous materials.

B. Containment and storage

1. Medical waste shall be contained and stored separate from other waste at the point of origin.
2. Medical waste shall be stored in an enclosed area and secured so as to deny access to unauthorized persons.
3. The storage facility shall be marked with warning signs on, or adjacent to, the exterior of entry doors, gates or lids. The wording of warning signs shall be In English, "CAUTION – BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA – UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT", and In Spanish, "CUIDADO – ZONA DE RESDUOS-BIOLÓGICOS PELIGROSOS – PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS."

a. Bio-hazardous waste and certain hazardous wastes

1. Bio-hazardous waste and certain hazardous wastes, except pharmaceutical waste (see P&P 1438b), shall be contained in a red biohazard bag labeled with the words "Biohazardous Waste" or the international biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard"



2. Red Bio-hazard bag is a disposable red bag that is impervious to moisture and has strength sufficient to preclude ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of usage and handling of the waste-filled bag.
3. Red Bio-hazard bags shall be tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents during all future storage and handling.
4. The red Bio-hazard bag shall be placed for storage and handling in a rigid container that is leak resistant and has a tight-fitting cover.
5. The container shall be labeled on the lid and sides so as to be visible from lateral directions.

b. Sharps Waste

1. All sharps waste shall be placed in a rigid puncture-resistant container which, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty.
2. Sharps containers shall be labeled "Sharps Waste or with international biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard".
3. Full sharps container, which is 2/3 to 3/4, ready for disposal shall be taped closed and tightly lidded to preclude loss of contents and put into a rigid container.

4. Transportation and disposal of medical waste

1. Sacramento County contracts with private vendor who provides services for collecting, transporting and disposal all JCH medical waste.

References:

Title 15, Article 8, Section 1438b

Health and Safety Code, Section 11760-11830

NCCHC, Y-B-01