Clinical Waste Up-Lift Service: Operational Guidelines

1. **Definition**

1.1 This service has been established to deal with clinical waste covered by the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 and Hazardous Waste Regulations (Second Edition) and defined as:

- any waste which consists wholly or partly of human or animal tissue, or waste contaminated with blood or any other bodily fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, or syringes, needles or other sharp instruments being waste which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it; **OR**

- any other waste arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, pharmaceutical or similar practice, investigation, treatment, care, teaching or research of the collection of blood for transfusion being waste which may cause infection to any person coming in contact with it.

1.2 Pharmaceutical and cytotoxic waste can now be disposed of through the system as all waste is subject to special waste regulations. Advice should be sought from the administration of the clinical waste service as to the appropriate containers to be provided.

1.3 Dental amalgam, developer, fixer, etc. will now be available as a service provided and advice should be sought from the administration of the clinical waste service.

2. **Safe Management of Clinical Waste: Duty of Care**

The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 imposes a duty of care on anyone who has a responsibility for clinical waste at any stage from its production to its disposal in order to ensure that it is legally and safely managed.

3. **Provision of Plastic Sacks/Sharps Containers**

3.1 Orange and yellow plastic sacks and 2, 4 or 7 litre sharps containers with orange and yellow lids will be provided and distributed by NHS Lothian.

3.2 The orange plastic sacks and sharps/rigid containers supplied by NHS Lothian will conform with UN3291 requirements.
4. **Security/Segregation**

4.1 Clinical waste should be segregated from all other waste and securely stored to prevent unauthorised access pending collection.

   Ideally the waste should be retained in a store dedicated to this use.

4.2 Sharps/rigid containers should also be kept separate from orange plastic sacks.

4.3 The use of biohazard warning signs on access doors to clinical waste stores is recommended.

5. **Presentation/Collection of Waste**

5.1 To ensure complete security, clinical waste and sharps containers will be up-lifted from agreed locations within premises.

5.2 NHS Lothian personnel who provide this comprehensive service will carry personal identity cards.

5.3 NHS Lothian personnel will agree the actual day/time/frequency for the collection of waste from individual premises.

5.4 Clinical waste sacks must be properly presented for collection ie:

   - the contents of utensils for faeces, urine and vomit must be flushed down the toilet and the empty container placed in an ORANGE BAG and treated as low risk clinical waste;

   - marked (indelible marker) with the unique location code number to enable easy identification throughout the collection/transport/disposal process, provide information necessary for audit purposes;

   - securely tied and tagged to ensure sacks can be safely carried by the neck;

   - staples must **not** be used;

   - **not** be overfilled, punctured or leaking;

   - maximum weight 5 kgs.

5.5 Single use/disposable instruments.

Metal instruments eg. scissors, forceps speculae, should be disposed of via sharps/rigid containers. Again, this container should be marked (indelible marker) with the unique location code number and department address to enable easy identification throughout the collection/transport/disposal process and provide information necessary for audit purposes.
5.6 Sharps containers must also be properly presented:-

- marked with unique location code number, practice, department or section and dated;
- securely assembled and sealed;
- no more than two thirds full;
- handled separately and must not be placed in plastic sacks.

6. Disposal

The clinical waste and sharps/rigid containers collected will be disposed of in accordance with current legislation at location(s) arranged by NHS Lothian.

CONTACT

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