CHECKLIST FOR THE DISPOSAL OF BIOMEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

SYNERGIE SANTÉ ENVIRONNEMENT

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Québec

Incineration

WASTE

BIOMEDICAL ANATOMICAL

BIOMEDICAL ANATOMICAL WASTE

- Any human anatomical waste consisting of a body part or one of its organs;
- Any animal anatomical waste consisting of a body, part of a body or one of its organs.

TREATMENT: INCINERATION

Incineration is a high-temperature combustion process that transforms organic and combustible waste into incombustible inorganic solid residues and gaseous combustion by-products.

SPECIFIC CONTAINER OF YOUR CHOICE

- Double red plastic bag inside cardboard box.
- Red rigid plastic container.

DID YOU KNOW?

Blood in bulk, dander (nails, hair, teeth) and biological fluids (urine, saliva, pleural fluid, etc.) are not anatomical waste. They can be discharged into the sewage system without pre-treatment, but with the necessary precautions to avoid contact and splashes.

WASTE

SOLID NON-ANATOMICAL

- Blood container or material soaked and dripping with blood, originating from medical care, a medical biology laboratory or the practice of thanatopraxy;
- Biological tissue, cell culture, micro-organism culture or material in contact with such tissue or culture, from a medical or veterinary laboratory;
- Live-strain vaccine.

TREATMENT: DISINFECTION BY AUTOCLAVE AND SENT TO LANDFILL

Disinfection is a thermal process that uses high temperatures to destroy micro-organisms (but not enough to cause combustion or pyrolysis of the waste), using pressurized saturated steam in direct contact with the waste for a sufficiently long time to disinfect it. This process uses an autoclave, which may be located inside or outside the hospital.

SPECIFIC CONTAINERS TO CHOOSE FROM

- Yellow plastic bag inside a cardboard box.
- Yellow rigid plastic container (reusable or single-use).

DID YOU KNOW?

A compress or any other material not soaked or dripping with blood should be disposed of in general waste. The same applies to drainage and collection devices (for urine, saliva, pleural fluid, etc.) that do not contain blood..

WASTE

PRICKLY, SHARP OR BREAKABLE

— **A sharp object in contact with blood, liquid or biological tissue, originating from :**
- medical, dental or veterinary care ;
- a medical or veterinary biology laboratory;
- the practice of thanatopraxy.

TREATMENT: DISINFECTION BY AUTOCLAVE AND SENT TO LANDFILL

Disinfection is a thermal process which uses high temperatures to destroy micro-organisms (but not sufficient to cause combustion or pyrolysis of the waste), using pressurized saturated steam in direct contact with the waste for a sufficiently long time to disinfect it. An autoclave is used for this process, and may be located either inside or outside the hospital.

SPECIFIC CONTAINER

— **Rigid, puncture- and impact-resistant yellow container (single-use or reusable).**

Examples

- **Needle**
- **Syringe with needle**
- **Single-use razor**
- **Blade**
- **Scalpel**
- **Scissors**
- **Single-use forceps**
- **Trocar**
- **Digital cautery pencil**
- **Glass tube or vial that does not contain medication**
- **Etc.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The perforating plugs at the end of the tubing are not sharps or breakable waste. They can be disposed of in general waste. To avoid incidents during handling, it is recommended to leave the perforating plug inserted in the IV bag, which does not contain any pharmaceutical product, before depositing it in the general waste.

TREATMENT

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WASTES

NON-HAZARDOUS PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

— All drug residues and expired drugs not classified as hazardous.

TREATMENT: INCINERATION

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SPECIFIC CONTAINERS

— Medication (liquid or tablet): red bag and cardboard box or blue and white container.

— Sharps in contact with non-hazardous drugs: white and blue rigid container.

In all cases, label the container with the RX symbol. ℞

Beware!

- Plastic bags which do not contain pharmaceutical residues and which contain personal data must be deposited in the confidential documents bin.
- Plastic containers that do not contain pharmaceutical residues can be placed in the recycling bin.
- Needle-free syringes that do not contain pharmaceutical residues can be disposed of in general waste.

DID YOU KNOW?

Medicine not required on the care unit (intact and unused), expired, unexpired or single-dose medicine must be managed on the unit and disposed of in the appropriate pharmaceutical waste container. Caution! Pharmaceutical waste placed in the wrong container and sent to wastewater or landfill pollutes ecosystems (water, air, soil, fauna, flora) and represents a danger to human health.

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WASTE

HAZARDOUS PHARMACEUTICALS

- Drug residues and expired, toxic or cytotoxic drugs;
- Containers which contain or have come into contact with a hazardous pharmaceutical product (during preparation or administration);
- Equipment used to prepare these drugs (personal protective equipment, medical equipment, etc.).

TREATMENT: INCINERATION

Incineration is a high-temperature combustion process that transforms organic and combustible waste into incombustible inorganic solid residues and gaseous combustion by-products.

SPECIFIC CONTAINER

- Rigid, airtight, red container or red bag and cardboard box

Label the container "Cytotoxic" with the symbol C

DID YOU KNOW?

Following the administration of a cytotoxic drug to a user (e.g. chemotherapy treatment), it is prudent to consider urine as cytotoxic waste. Urine bags or incontinence pants should be considered cytotoxic waste.

GENERAL WASTE

— **The treatment of biomedical and pharmaceutical waste represents significant costs in terms of human resources (handling) and financial resources (10 times more expensive than the treatment of general waste).**

— **When poorly managed, the treatment of biomedical and pharmaceutical waste has an impact on the environment (pollution of ecosystems: water, air, soil, fauna, flora) and represents a danger to human health.**

SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO PUT THE RIGHT WASTE IN THE RIGHT CONTAINER TO ENSURE PROPER TREATMENT!

The following is a non-exhaustive list of general waste that **should not** be placed in biomedical or pharmaceutical waste containers:

— **Biological fluid (intravascular, interstitial and intracellular biological fluids, such as urine, saliva, pleural fluid, etc.);**

— **Equipment not soaked or dripping with blood (compresses, gowns, blue surgical drapes, etc.);**

— **Bag of solutions and tubing free of pharmaceutical residues;**

— **Personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, masks, etc.), even from an isolation room, unless the equipment has been in contact with cytotoxic waste;**

— **Drainage equipment (bulb, chest drain, suction) that does not contain blood;**

— **Paper and cardboard without pharmaceutical residues;**

— **Plastic containers;**

— **Urinary, fecal and nasogastric tubes with collection bag;**

— **Etc.**