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**Excerpts from the California Medical Waste Management Act
Health and Safety Code sections 117600 -118360**

Sharps Waste: (118285) (c) and (118280) (d)(2)

- Must be stored in an approved Sharps Container (Isolyser is approved for sharps).
- Full containers may not be stored for more than 30 days at room temperature days without written approval of the enforcement agency. Containers stored below 32 degrees Fahrenheit may be stored up to 90 days without prior written approval.

Biohazard (Red) bags must be: (118280)

- Tied to prevent leakage or content expulsion during all future storage handling or transport.
- Placed in a rigid container.

Containers must be: (118280)

- Leak resistant.
- Have tight fitting covers.
- Kept clean and in good repair.
- May be any color.
- Labeled on the lid and on sides so as to be visible from any lateral direction.

Container Label must be: (118280)

- “**Biohazardous Waste**” or:
- The international biohazard symbol and the word “**Biohazard**” on the lid.

Storage Area shall: (118310)

- Be secured to deny access to unauthorized persons.
- Have warning signs clearly posted.

Warning Sign shall be in English and in Spanish with the following words: (118310)

- “Caution – Biohazardous waste storage area – unauthorized persons keep out”.
- “Cuidado – Zona de Residuos – Biologicos peligrosos – Prohibida la entrada a personas no autorizadas”.
- Or in another language in addition to English as determined by the Local Enforcement Agency.

Pharmaceutical Waste must:

- be placed in a container labeled “For Incineration Only” and segregated from other waste.
- Certain pharmaceuticals are Federal Hazardous Waste (RCRA) -- it is the your responsibility to be characterize your waste stream. Coumadin, epinephrine, nitroglycerine, and nicotine patches are examples of this waste.

The **Tracking Manifest** (pink or yellow hauling receipt) left by your approved hauler must be retained on site for three years and available for inspection on request.

The Medical Waste Management Act is available at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/MedicalWasteManagementAct.pdf>

If you generate **less than 200 pounds of Medical Waste per month** you are a **Small Quantity Generator (SQG)** and one of the following will apply to you:

- 1) If you do not transport, treat, or combine with another generator you will be in the **“Registration Only”** category that includes an annual fee and site visits once every 3 years.
- 2) If you generate AND transport less than 20 pounds a week (more than that requires permitting by the State as a hauler) you will have a **“Limited Quantity Haulers Exemption”** and have two inspections per year and an annual fee.
You **must** maintain a log with:
 1. the name of the person transporting the waste
 2. The number of containers and type of waste
 3. The date the waste was received by your storage area
- 3) If you combine waste with one or more other businesses you will be permitted as **“Small Quantity Generators Sharing Common Storage Facilities”**. When changes of the contributing businesses occur you must notify this Department immediately. You receive inspections three to four times a year.
- 4) If you treat (autoclave) your Medical Waste and reuse it or dispose of it in the regular trash you must have:
 - a. Written Standard Operating Procedures for biological indicators that include time, temperature, pressure, type of waste, type of container, closure on container, pattern of loading, water content and maximum quantity.
 - b. Documentation that recording or indicating thermometers are checked during each complete cycle to ensure the attainment of 121 degrees Centigrade of at least 30 minutes.
 - c. Thermometers calibrated annually.
 - d. Heat sensitive tape on each biohazard bag treated
 - e. A biological indicator such as *Bacillus stearothermophilus* placed at the center of the load monthly.
 - f. Records of all the above maintained for three years.

If you generate **more than 200 pounds of Medical Waste one or more months per year** OR operate a clinic, hospital or other facility with increased risk or frequent violations, you will be categorized either as a **Large Quantity Generator** or by the type of your facility.

Pharmaceutical Waste Cheat Sheet

Excerpts from the California Medical Waste Management Act
Health and Safety Code

- **118275 (g)** Pharmaceutical Waste **MUST** be stored in a container labeled “**Incineration Only**”. The labeling must be visible on the lid and the sides. Both sharps and non-sharps approved pharmaceutical waste containers are available through your medical waste hauler. Mail back options are also available.
- Syringes containing liquid pharmaceuticals that must be wasted (e.g. controlled substances) may be emptied into a pharmaceutical waste container holding sorbants that will absorb the liquid. Absorbant pads are available for **SMALL** amounts of liquids. The empty syringe may then be disposed of in a sharps container, or, if there is no needle, it may be placed in the regular trash (see 117635 below).
- **117943** Pharmaceutical waste must be manifested and show up as an entry on your hauling manifest (also called a “service ticket”).
- **118280 (e)** A full container may be stored for up to 90 days, with written approval it may be stored longer. A partially full container must be disposed of annually. Please fill in the “start” date on the label provided on the side of the container.
- **117635(f)(3)** Empty vials, glass or otherwise, should be disposed of in the regular trash. “Empty” is commonly accepted as “less than 3% of the original total volume” **AND** there are no **POURABLE** contents.
- **117755** Broken empty glass vials, ampules, and carpules should be placed in a sharps container.
- **117747 (a)** Vitamins, minerals, fiber supplements, etc., can be disposed of in the regular garbage.
- **117700 (e)** Some pharmaceuticals such as coumadin, nitroglycerin, and nicotine patches, are **Federally Hazardous (RCRA waste) and MAY NOT** be placed in the pharmaceutical waste container. You may dispose of them at the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites at either Dimeo Lane or Buena Vista Landfills under your Small Quantity Generator status. Small quantity generators must obtain a Cal EPA ID from the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and may drop their hazardous waste off at their local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site for a fee.

California Department of Toxic Substance Control
<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/IDmanifest/index.cfm>

County of Santa Cruz Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Center
<http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/www.santacruzcountyclecyls/PDF/FeeSchedule.pdf>

May 12, 2010

Excerpts from the California Health and Safety Code, Medical Waste Management Act

117635 Biohazardous Waste Defined:

- (d) Waste...containing recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing blood that is fluid, or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans
- (e) Waste containing discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals that are required to be isolated by the infection control staff, the attending physician, and surgeon...veterinarian, or the local health officer, to protect others from highly communicable diseases....
- (f) (2)...chemotherapeutic agent means an agent that kills or prevents the reproduction of malignant cells.
(3)...a container, or inner liner, removed from a container, which previously contained a chemotherapeutic agent, is empty if the container or inner liner removed from the container has been emptied by the generator as much as possible, using methods commonly employed to remove waste or material from containers or liners, so that the following conditions are met:
 - (A) If the material which the container or inner liner held is pourable, no material can be poured or drained from the container or inner liner when held in any orientation, including, but not limited to, when tilted or inverted.
 - (B) If the material which the container or inner liner held is not pourable, no material or waste remains in the container or inner liner that can feasibly be removed by scraping.
- (g) Waste that is hazardous only because it is comprised of pharmaceuticals, as defined in Section 11747. Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 117690, medical waste includes biohazardous waste that meets the conditions of this subdivision. Biohazardous waste that meets the conditions of this subdivision is not subject to Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100) of Division 20

117690 - Medical Waste:

- (a) "Medical waste" means waste which meets both of the following requirements:
 - (1) The waste is composed of waste which is generated or produced as a result of any of the following actions:
 - (A) Diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals.
 - (B) Research pertaining to (A) above.
 - (C) Production or testing of biologicals.
 - (D) The accumulation of properly contained home-generated sharps waste that is brought by a patient, a member of the patient's family, or by a person authorized by the enforcement agency, to a point of consolidation approved by the enforcement agency pursuant to Section 117904 or authorized pursuant to Section 11847.
 - (2) The waste is either of the following:
 - (A) Biohazardous Waste.
 - (B) Sharps Waste.

117700 NOT Medical Waste:

- (c) Urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, or vomitus, unless it contains fluid blood, as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 117635.
- (d) Waste which is not biohazardous, such as paper towels, paper products, articles containing nonfluid blood, and other medical solid waste products commonly found in the facilities of medical waste generators.
- (f) Hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or household waste, including, but not limited to, home-generated sharps waste, as defined in Section 117671

117747 – Pharmaceutical Waste

(a) “Pharmaceutical” means a prescription or over-the-counter human or veterinary drug, including, but not limited to, a drug as defined in Section 109925 or the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended, (21 U.S.C.A. Sec 321(g)(1).

- (3) For purposes of this part, “Pharmaceutical” does not include any pharmaceutical that is regulated pursuant to either of the following:
 - 1. the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (42 U.S.C.A. Sec 6901 et seq.)
 - 2. The Radiation Control Law (Chapter 8 [commencing with Section 114960] of Part 9.