



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

Title: DISPOSAL OF BIO HAZARDOUS/INFECTIOUS WASTE	Policy Number: EP 7.18
Regulation Reference: Joint Commission, Texas Department of State Health Services	Effective Date: 08/2019

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) to dispose of bio hazardous/Infectious waste in accordance with state and local ordinances. This policy provides for the safe handling and disposal of such waste.

Scope and Distribution:

This policy applies and will be distributed to all TTUHSC El Paso clinical departments.

Procedure:

Waste disposal procedures at TTUHSC are dictated by the Texas Department of State Health Services and 25 TAC §§1.131-1.137, "Definition, Treatment & Disposal of Special Waste from Healthcare Related

1. Special Waste in all Clinical Departments includes the following:
 - a. Microbial waste: discarded live and attenuated vaccines.
 - b. Pathological waste:
 - i. Human materials removed during procedures.
 - ii. Laboratory specimens of blood and tissue after completion of laboratory examination.
 - iii. Foreign body implantable material (surgically implanted devices, prosthesis, and medication dispensing devices).
 - iv. Sharps (any object that can penetrate the skin):
 1. Hypodermic needles and syringes with attached needles
 2. Contaminated (known or reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other body fluids) scalpel blades, razor blades, disposable surgery scissors, and intravenous stylets and rigid inducers
 3. Contaminated/broken glass pipettes, specimen tubes, blood culture bottles, and microscope slides
 - v. Bulk blood, human blood products, and bulk human body fluids (OPIM)
 1. Free-flowing waste, human blood, serum, plasma, and body fluids identified under universal precautions as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including disposable items saturated with blood or body fluids
 2. Bulk is defined as a containerized, aggregate volume of 100 mL or greater
 3. Saturated is defined as thoroughly wet such that liquid or fluid flows freely from an item or surface without compression
 4. Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) is defined as any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead), such as HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-contained culture medium, and the following human body fluids:



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semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid (joint fluid), pleural fluid (lung fluid), pericardial fluid (around the heart), peritoneal fluid (fluid that fills body cavity), saliva during dental procedures, amniotic fluid (uterine fluid), any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

2. Procedure for Disposal of Biohazard Waste: All biohazard waste mentioned above will be placed inside a biohazard waste container. The container will be placed outside the hallway in the evening for pick up. If there are any concerns, please call Safety Services at 915-215-4820.
 - a. Container must have a plastic liner.
 - b. Once container is full, the plastic liner must be tied-off.
 - c. Container lids shall be closed.
 - d. Leave container out in the hallway in the evening.
 - e. Custodial Services will pick up the container and leave an empty one.
 - f. If container is not closed in the manner stated above, it will not be picked up.
 - g. Unless saturated with blood or body fluids or known to be infectious, waste items that fall outside the above definition do not require special disposal and can be placed in the regular trash containers.
 - h. If a healthcare provider believes that an item, which, by definition, does not have to be treated as special waste or represents a real and substantial risk of exposure to infectious disease to themselves, a patient or an employee, he/she should place it in the biohazard container.
3. Educational Medical trainings/skills workshops using animal parts; poultry, pork and beef, have the potential of carrying food-borne organisms. Because of the potential of cross-contamination on table-tops that may come in contact with this material, departments are required to request a “**Terminal Cleaning**” on a work-order for Custodial Service. The cleaning will be concentrated to the areas which came into contact with the material. The training room(s) shall not be used until the terminal cleaning is completed. Therefore, an additional hour must be reserved after the medical training or workshop, so that the terminal cleaning can be completed, before the next room user comes in.

Furthermore, trainings/skills workshops utilizing animal parts are not to take place in any patient-care rooms or areas.

4. Waste associated with these workshops will be disposed of in the following manner:
 - 1) **Animal parts** – will be double bagged in regular trash bags and sealed tight. The workshop planner/coordinator, is responsible for ensuring the material is double bagged and sealed appropriately. All waste that is generated, shall also be double bagged and sealed: gloves, absorbent pads, etc. ***This waste will be disposed as regular trash.***
 - 2) **Human parts, i.e. placentas** – will continue to be treated as biohazard waste because of the human blood-borne concern. This waste will be double-bagged in red biohazard bags and placed in a red biohazard waste bin for proper disposal. In addition, the Department of Safety Services, must be contacted to coordinate the disposal of this waste. Please contact the Safety Services at 215-4820.
 - 3) **Sharps-** if needles, scissors, scalpels or sharps are used; these materials will be disposed of in sharp containers and then placed into a biohazard bag and bin, as they are considered biohazard waste. Dispose as item #2.



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Policy Number: EP 7.18	Original Approval Date: 9/2014
Version Number: 2	Revision Date: 08/2019
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