

Title: Waste Management (#28)
Scope: Network
Manual: Administrative
Origination Date: 4/25/2001
Revision Dates: 11/30/05, 1/20/06, 7/30/09, 9/16/2011, 9/23/2013
Review Dates: 5/16/03, 10/12/05, 2/12/08

I. Purpose:

St. Luke's Health Network complies with the guidelines and regulations established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the disposal of hazardous and infectious medical waste. The disposal of all hospital waste requires cooperation and effort at all levels to result in an efficient and safe disposal system. The responsibility for identification and separation of waste material rests with those departments who create the waste. However, the primary responsibility for disposal rests with the Environmental Services Department. Careless disposal of waste may result in injuries to patients, visitors or employees: or damage to hospital property.

1. All Municipal Waste will be sent to an approved landfill through an approved contractor as municipal waste in Allentown, Quakertown, Bethlehem, Coaldale, and **Anderson**.
2. At all facilities Allentown, Quakertown, and Bethlehem, Infectious Waste material is sterilized and placed with the municipal waste for disposal as regulated municipal waste by a company under contract with the hospital. (Operating permits and additional information can be found in the hospital contract file located in the Environmental Services Department in each hospital). At St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital Coaldale, Infectious Waste material is placed in a corrugated cardboard box (clearly marked bio-hazardous waste), taped closed and stored to be picked up by a licensed contractor, and transported to an approved site for disposal. At St. Luke's **Anderson** Hospital, Infectious Waste material is collected in a regulated medical

waste container and stored to be picked up by a licensed contractor, and transported to an approved site for disposal

3. All personnel in the Environmental Services Department involved in the handling and disposing of infectious material receive orientation, in service education and training in the proper handling of such waste.
4. Waste collection points may vary from time to time and will be designated by the Environmental Services Department.
5. Manifests are required for biohazardous, chemical, and Chemotherapeutic waste. Environmental Services, at each campus, is responsible for maintaining an original and return copy of each manifest that is generated.

II. **Definitions:**

- **Cultures and stocks** of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including the following: cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines except for residue in emptied containers; and culture dishes, assemblies and devices used to conduct diagnostic tests or to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures.
- **Pathological wastes.** Human pathological wastes, including tissues, organs and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery, autopsy, other medical procedures or laboratory procedures. The term does not include hair, nails or extracted teeth.
- **Human blood and body fluid waste.**
 - Liquid waste human blood.
 - Blood products.
 - Items saturated or dripping with human blood.
 - Items that were saturated or dripping with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood, including serum, plasma and other blood components, which were used or intended for use in patient care, specimen testing or the development of pharmaceuticals.
 - Intravenous bags that have been used for blood transfusions.

- Items, including dialysate, that have been in contact with the blood of patients undergoing hemodialysis at hospitals or independent treatment centers.
 - Items saturated or dripping with body fluids or caked with dried body fluids from persons during surgery, autopsy, other medical procedures or laboratory procedures.
 - Specimens of blood products or body fluids, and their containers.
- **Animal wastes.** Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, blood, blood products, secretions, excretions and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to zoonotic infectious agents or nonzoonotic human pathogens during research (including research in veterinary schools and hospitals), production of biologicals or testing of pharmaceuticals.
 - **Isolation wastes.** Biological wastes and waste contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates or secretions from:
 - Humans who are isolated to protect others from highly virulent diseases.
 - Isolated animals known or suspected to be infected with highly virulent diseases.
 - **Used sharps.** Sharps that have been in contact with infectious agents or that have been used in animal or human patient care or treatment, at medical, research or industrial laboratories.

III. Procedure

MUNICIPAL WASTE:

1. Daily, all routine trash from patient rooms and other areas on nursing units are collected by Environmental Services aides. All approved waste containers are lined with a plastic bag. Each of these bags is collected and placed into a large plastic bag, which is then tied and then placed into the appropriate trash cart located in the designated area on each floor.
2. The intent of our Environmental Service waste management policy and procedure is to remove trash from all nursing units and place into the compactor each day. In outpatient areas and surgical suites municipal waste is picked up and removed from the building by the Environmental Services Department each day.

RECYCLING:

In order to comply with Pennsylvania Recycling Law (Act 101) which will help conserve energy, our natural resources, prolong the life of existing landfills, as well as reduce the hospitals overall waste cost. The Environmental Services Department coordinates the hospital-recycling program as outlined below. This is an outline and St. Luke's Health Network recycles as much as possible.

1. Aluminum Cans: Aluminum Cans and tin cans are collected regularly in specially marked containers located throughout the hospital including Nutrition Services department. These cans are removed by the Environmental Services and Nutrition Services staff and taken to a specified location. A contracted recycling company picks up the aluminum and tin cans (contract located in Purchasing Department). In Quakertown and **Anderson** Aluminum Cans and tin cans are taken to a Co-Mingle dumpster on site where it is removed up by a contracted recycling company. Exception: Not done at Miners.
2. Office Waste Paper: Various types of office waste paper are collected daily on all nursing units and in various departments throughout the hospital. The paper is periodically picked up by the Environmental Services aides and taken to a designated area at each facility. In Quakertown and **Anderson** Office waste paper is taken to a Co-Mingle dumpster on site where it is removed by a contracted recycling company.
3. Corrugated Cardboard: Corrugated cardboard is collected daily at various trash stations and specific departments. In Bethlehem, the cardboard is then taken to commercial baler located on hospital loading dock where it is then compacted bales. A contracted recycling company picks the bales up three times a week, (contract located in Purchasing Department). In Allentown cardboard is taken to a dumpster on site where is picked up once per week. At Quakertown and **Anderson** the cardboard is taken to a Co-Mingle dumpster on site where it is removed by a contracted recycling company.
4. Glass: Glass containers, (jars/bottles) are collected from designated, labeled containers located in the cafeteria dish room, and in the NICU nursery at the Bethlehem Campus only. The glass containers are taken to a specified location in the rear of the hospital by Nutrition Services aides and Environmental

Services aides. A contracted recycling company picks up glass containers once a week.

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIAL:

Infectious waste is defined by the Department of Environmental Protection as waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, immunization, or autopsy of humans, or in the production or testing of biologicals. Infectious waste includes: cultures and stocks, pathological waste, items saturated with blood and body fluid waste, intravenous bags that have been used for blood transfusions, items including dialysate that have been in contact with the blood of patients undergoing hemodialysis, contaminated laboratory waste, needles and sharps, and trace chemotherapy waste. Regulated medical waste is handled as potentially infectious "red bag" waste.

(Ref. PA Bulletin)

1. Contaminated and infectious waste (except for sharps, pathological waste, and Chemotherapeutic waste as noted below) collected from nursing units is placed into three-millimeter thick red plastic bag, the bag is then tied and removed by Environmental Services personnel. These red plastic bags are labeled "Biohazardous" in both English and Spanish. All suction canisters are removed by Environmental Services aides from designated trash can in red plastic bag, after nursing personnel has properly capped all port holes on containers. Any suction canister not properly sealed is brought to the attention of the nursing personnel for proper sealing. The bags are then placed in the enclosed trash cart located in the soiled utility room on all nursing units, which is then collected two times per day by an Environmental Services aide. At Allentown, Quakertown, and Bethlehem, biohazardous waste is taken to the designated area of the hospital for sterilizing and then placed in the compactor. The waste is pick up by a licensed contractor, and taken to an approved regulated municipal waste landfill. At Miners and **Anderson** the bags are then placed in a corrugated box (clearly marked biohazardous waste) and stored to be picked up by a licensed contractor and transported to an approved site for disposal.
2. Pathological specimens generated from the lab in Allentown, Quakertown and **Anderson** are packed in red bags and

transported to Bethlehem where they are analyzed, and disposed of as infectious waste along with the Bethlehem Pathological waste, it is then removed by a licensed contractor. At Miners the pathological waste is disposed of as infectious waste, following the same procedure. A licensed contractor then removes it to an approved site for disposal.

3. All chemotherapeutic waste generated by the Pharmacy and Oncology is placed in specially labeled yellow containers which are double lined with a yellow liner bag with the label "Chemo Waste". This yellow liner bag with trash is removed by the Environmental Services aide and taken to an appropriate storage unit. It is then picked up by a licensed contractor and transported to an approved site for disposal. At Miners the yellow liner bag with trash is removed by the Environmental Services aide and placed in a corrugated box (clearly marked for chemo waste), taped closed and taken to an appropriate storage unit. It is then picked up by a licensed contractor and transported to an approved site for disposal.
4. Sharps are placed in the appropriate containers and are collected by an approved contractor for proper disposal.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS:

Hazardous Waste Chemicals are removed from the laboratory by an Environmental Services aide and taken to the Hazardous Waste storage shed where it is picked up quarterly by an approved Hazardous Waste contractor and disposed of accordingly. At Miners, hazardous waste chemicals are removed from the Laboratory by an Environmental Services aide and taken to the dock and properly boxed, taped, marked and stored in the biohazardous waste shed where it is picked up by a licensed contractor and transported to an approved site for disposal.

IV. Attachments

N/A

V. References

JC: EC.01.01.01, EC.02.02.01, IC.02.01.01

VI. Policy Responsibility

SLH-Allentown	Environmental Services	Preparer
SLH-Bethlehem	Environmental Services	Lead Preparer
SLH-Miners	Environmental Services	Preparer
SLH-Quakertown	Environmental Services	Preparer
SLH-Anderson	Environmental Services	Preparer

VII. Disclaimer Statement

This policy and procedure is intended to provide a description of a course of action to comply with legal requirements and/or operational standards. There may be specific circumstances not contemplated by this policy and procedure that may make compliance either unclear or inappropriate. For advice in these circumstances, consult with your Chain of Command, Administrator on Call, Clinical Risk Management, Legal Services, Accreditation and Standards, or Compliance Officer, as appropriate.

VIII. Approval

Environmental Services every two years