

"ADOPTED STANDARDS FOR THE REGULATION OF MEDICAL WASTE"
IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES LICENSED BY THE
MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE

"Infectious medical wastes" includes solid or liquid wastes which may contain pathogens with sufficient virulence and quantity such that exposure to the waste by a susceptible host has been proven to result in an infectious disease. For purposes of this Regulation, the following wastes shall be considered to be infectious medical wastes:

- (1) Wastes resulting from the care of patients and animals who have Class I and (or) II diseases that are transmitted by blood and body fluid as defined in the rules and regulations governing reportable diseases. (See attached) as defined by the Mississippi State Department of Health;
- (2) Cultures and stocks of infectious agents; including specimen cultures collected 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, and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures;
- (3) Blood and blood products such as serum, plasma, and other blood components;
- (4) Pathological wastes, such as tissues, organs, body parts, and body fluids that are removed during surgery and autopsy;
- (5) Contaminated carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were exposed to pathogens in medical research;
- (6) All discarded sharps (e.g., hypodermic needles, syringes, Pasteur pipettes, broken glass, scalpel blades) which have come into contact with infectious agents;
- (7) Other wastes determined infectious by the generator or so classified by the State Department of Health.

`Medical Waste' means all waste generated in direct patient care or in diagnostic or research areas that is non-infectious but aesthetically repugnant if found in the environment. "

MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

All generators of infectious medical waste and medical waste shall have a medical waste management plan that shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- I. Storage and Containment of Infectious Medical Waste and Medical Waste
 - A. Containment of infectious medical waste and medical waste shall be in a manner and location which affords protection from animals, rain and wind, does not provide a breeding place or a food source for insects and rodents, and minimizes exposure to the public.
 - B. Infectious medical waste shall be segregated from other waste at the point of origin in the producing facility.
 - C. Unless approved by the Mississippi State Department of health or treated and rendered non-infectious. Infectious medical waste (except for sharps in approved containers) shall not be stored at a waste producing facility for more than seven days above a temperature of 6 C (38F). Containment of infectious medical waste at the producing facility is permitted at or below a temperature of 0 C (32F) for a period of not more than 90 days without specific approval of the Department of Health.
 - D. Containment of infectious medical waste shall be separate from other wastes. Enclosures or containers used for containment of infectious medical waste shall be so secured so as to discourage access by unauthorized persons and shall be marked with prominent warning signs on, or adjacent to, the exterior of entry doors, gates, or lids. Each container shall be prominently labeled with a sign using language to be determined by the Department and legible during daylight hours.
 - E. Infectious medical waste, except for sharps capable of puncturing or cutting, shall be contained in double disposable plastic bags or single bags (1.5 mills thick) which are impervious to moisture and have a strength sufficient to preclude ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of usage. The bags shall be securely tied so as to prevent leakage or expulsion of solid or liquid waste during storage, handling, or transport.
 - F. All sharps shall be contained for disposal in leakproof, rigid, puncture-resistant containers which are taped closed or tightly lidded to preclude loss of the contents.
 - G. All bags used for containment and disposal of infectious medical waste shall be of a distinctive color or display the Universal Symbol for infectious waste. Rigid containers of all sharps waste shall be labeled.
 - H. Compactors or grinders shall not be used to process infectious medical waste unless

the waste has been rendered non-infectious. Sharps containers shall not be subject to compaction by any compacting device except in the institution itself and shall not be placed for storage or transport in a portable or mobile trash compactor.

- I. Infectious medical waste and medical waste contained in disposable containers as prescribed above, shall be placed for storage, handling, or transport in disposable or reusable pails, cartons, drums, or portable bins. The containment system shall be leakproof, have tight-fitting covers and be kept clean and in good repair.
- J. Reusable containers for infectious medical waste and medical waste shall be thoroughly washed and decontaminated each time they are emptied by a method specified by the Mississippi State Department of Health, unless the surfaces of the containers have been protected from contamination by disposable liners, bags, or other devices removed with the waste, as outlined in I.E.

Approved methods of decontamination include, but are not limited to, agitation to remove visible soil combined with one or more of the following procedures:

- 1. Exposure to hot water at least 180 F for a minimum of 15 seconds.
- 2. Exposure to a chemical sanitizer by rinsing with or immersion in one of the following for a minimum of 3 minutes:
 - a. Hypochlorite solution (500 ppm available chlorine).
 - b. Phenolic solution (500 ppm active agent).
 - c. Iodoform solution (100 ppm available iodine).
 - d. Quaternary ammonium solution (400 ppm active agent).

Reusable pails, drums, or bins used for containment of infectious waste shall not be used for containment of waste to be disposed of as non-infectious waste or for other purposes except after being decontaminated by procedures as described in part (J) of this section.

- K. Trash chutes shall not be used to transfer infectious medical waste.
 - L. Once treated and rendered non-infectious, previously defined infectious medical waste will be classified as medical waste and may be landfilled in an approved landfill.
- II. Treatment or disposal of infectious medical waste shall be by one of the following methods:
- A. By incineration in an approved incinerator which provides combustion of the waste to carbonized or mineralized ash.

- B. By sterilization by heating in a steam sterilizer, so as to render the waste non-infectious. Infectious medical waste so rendered non-infectious shall be disposable as medical waste. Operating procedures for steam sterilizers shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
1. Adoption of standard written operating procedures for each steam sterilizer including time, temperature, pressure, type of waste, type of container(s), closure on container(s), pattern of loading, water content, and maximum load quantity.
 2. Check or recording and/or indicating thermometers during each complete cycle to ensure the attainment of a temperature of 121 C (250 F) for one-half hour or longer, depending on quantity and density of the load, in order to achieve sterilization of the entire load. Thermometers shall be checked for calibration at least annually.
 3. Use of heat sensitive tape or other device for each container that is processed to indicate the attainment of adequate sterilization conditions.
 4. Use of the biological indicator Bacillus stearothermophilus placed at the center of a load processed under standard operating conditions at least monthly to confirm the attainment of adequate sterilization conditions.
 5. Maintenance of records of procedures specified in (1), (2), (3) and (4) above for period of not less than a year.
 6. By discharge to the approved sewerage system if the waste is liquid or semi-liquid, except as prohibited by the State Department of Health.
- C. Recognizable human anatomical remains shall be disposed of by incineration or internment, unless burial at an approved landfill is specifically authorized by the Mississippi State Department of Health.
- D. Chemical sterilization shall use only those chemical sterilants recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances. Ethylene oxide, glutaraldehyde, and hydrogen peroxide are examples of sterilants that, used in accordance with manufacturer recommendation, will render infectious waste non-infectious. Testing with Bacillus subtilis spores or other equivalent organisms shall be conducted quarterly to ensure the sterilization effectiveness of gas or steam treatment.
- III. Treatment and disposal of medical waste which is not infectious shall be by one of the following methods:
- A. By incineration in an approved incinerator which provides combustion of the waste to carbonized or mineralized ash.

- B. By sanitary landfill, in an approved landfill which shall mean a disposal facility or part of a facility where medical waste is placed in or on land, and which is not a treatment facility.

All the requirements of these standards shall apply, without regard to the quantity of medical waste generated per month, to any generator of medical waste to include, but not be limited to, the following categories:

- Hospitals
- Nursing Facilities
- Ambulatory Surgical Facilities
- Home Health Agencies
- Birthing Centers

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