

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

NUMBER: 1606

VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

POLICY: All pharmaceutical waste shall be collected, managed, and disposed of properly, pursuant to local, state, and federal laws and regulations

PURPOSE:

- To promote a safe environment
- To define pharmacy's role in pharmaceutical waste management
- To ensure that pharmaceutical waste are handled appropriately in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS: Pharmaceutical waste:

1. Partial doses of medication that remains in a single unit container after a medication dose has been administered to the patient.
2. Altered condition from the original form or container provided by the manufacturer, which has been rendered unusable or unsalvageable for credit by the vendor.

RCRA: Resource Conservation Recovery Act

PROCEDURE: All pharmaceutical waste shall be collected, and disposed of appropriately in one of the following containers or methods:

1. Chemotherapy Waste containers
2. Pharmaceutical Waste containers labeled "For Incineration Only"
3. Black RCRA Containers
4. Sink – Certain IV solutions may be disposed down the sink such as plain IV solutions, electrolytes, saline, dextrose, and multivitamins

Pharmaceutical Waste Management

A. Antineoplastic agents: Any excess cytotoxic agent remaining in the syringe, ampule, or vial should be left intact and be disposed of in small (2) gallon chemotherapy waste container.

B. Non-Antineoplastic agents: Altered from the original form or condition provided by the manufacturer and can no longer be used or salvaged for credit by the vendor (Refer to Pharmacy Policy 704, Unused Medications)

SUBJECT/TITLE: PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Policy Number: 1606

Page Number: 2

Returned/Disposition) shall be disposed in a “Pharmaceutical waste” container labeled “For Incineration Only”. These include small pour able amount of oral and IV solutions, loose tablet(s) and/or capsule(s), inhalers, ENT products, and partial remains from external medications, i.e., ointments, lotions, solutions, patches, etc. However, some large volume IV solutions may be drained down the sink for disposal (refer to attached flow chart for exceptions).

Environmental Services will remove/replace Pharmaceutical Waste containers, when needed. Pharmaceutical waste too large in size for the above container on Nursing Units should be delivered to the pharmacy for a proper disposal.

Any returned controlled substances shall be collected in the “pharmaceutical waste” container labeled “FOR INCINERATION ONLY” which is located in the secured narcotic vault. They are to be processed by a certified Pharmaceutical Waste Company (EXP), bimonthly, for credit by the vendor whenever possible or for disposal, per State and Federal Regulation. Refer to Pharmacy Policy 704, Unused Medications Returned/Disposition.

Attachments

- Pharmaceutical Waste Flow Chart
- Antineoplastic Waste Flow Chart

References:	
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