

RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

Infection Prevention and Control

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

**SUBJECT: WORKPLACE TRANSMISSION: REGULATED
WASTE AND HAZARD COMMUNICATION**

**Policy No.: IC202E
Last Revision: 03/2014
Reviewed: 04/2022
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All regulated wastes need to be disposed in a biohazardous trash can that is lined with a red bag. Regulated waste includes:

1. Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious material
2. Contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed
3. Items caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials are capable of releasing these materials during handling
4. Contaminated sharps
5. Pathological and microbiological waste containing blood or other potentially infectious materials
6. Medical waste as regulated by the California Safety Code sections 117600 through 118360 includes:
 - a. Biohazardous laboratory waste
 - b. Liquid blood: fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers or equipment containing fluid blood
 - c. Sharps (including needles)
 - d. Contaminated animals
 - e. Surgical specimens
 - f. Isolation waste from highly communicable diseases, waste contaminated with human or animal excretion, exudates, or secretions.

*Note: Biohazardous Waste include: (1) materials contaminated with excretion, exudate, or secretions from humans or animals that are required to be isolated by Infection Preventionist(s) or (2) waste that contains recognizable blood or blood products
Not Medical Waste: urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, or vomitus without blood.*

The only type of isolation waste that must be red bagged in its entirety is waste from patients with highly communicable diseases that are caused by organisms classified by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as Biosafety Level IV organisms. These are diseases such as Lassa Fever, Marburg and Small Pox; they are very rarely seen in the United States.

Regulated waste will be placed in containers that are puncture resistant, leak proof on sides and bottom, and labeled or color-coded or biohazard symbol.

During use, containers for contaminated sharps shall be accessible to personnel and located as close as feasible to the immediate area where sharps are used, maintained upright throughout use, and replaced when filled to the fill line.

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Containers will be closed prior to removal to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, storage, transport or shipping. If outside contamination of the regulated waste occurs, it shall be placed on a second container that is closeable, constructed to contain all contents and prevent leakage of fluids during handling, storage, transport or shipping.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

The biohazard symbol represents regulated waste or biohazardous waste and is found on bags or containers, refrigerators or freezers that contain blood or other potentially infectious material.

Biohazardous labels are fluorescent orange or orange-red in color. Red bags and/or red containers may be substituted for labels.

Disposal

1. Healthcare worker will place biohazardous waste in a small, leakproof plastic bag and dispose of it into a biohazardous trashcan located in a designated area.
2. The Environmental Service worker will collect and transport the biohazard waste to the locked central biohazardous storage area.
3. Facilities Management will arrange and monitor the disposal of the biohazardous waste out of the facility.

Refer to individual departmental policies for more detail information.