

Feature Article—Regulated Waste Self-Inspection

By: Rose Kreller, APRN, MSN

Here is a quick checklist to assist facilities regarding regulated medical waste. The checklist addresses site generation, storage, and preparation for transport.

**Remember, the generator is ultimately responsible for their regulated waste. All bags should be tied, and boxes should be closed and ready for transport when Medi-Waste arrives.

- ◆ Are all sharps placed in puncture-resistant containers?
- ◆ Have fluids that are to be transported been treated with a solidifier and contained to prevent leakage?
- ◆ Are weight limits on containers being followed?
- ◆ If using corrugated boxes, is the bottom properly taped?
- ◆ Are liners/bags being properly closed with a single knot?
- ◆ Are liners/containers with rips or tears being double bagged?
- ◆ Is waste stored in an area such to maintain the integrity of the container? i.e. away from water, wind etc.

(Continued on reverse)

Pharmaceuticals—Developing Your Program

By: Rose Kreller, APRN, MSN

The discovery of pharmaceuticals in surface, ground, and drinking waters is raising concerns about potential adverse consequences of these contaminants. Even minute concentrations can have detrimental effects to humans and animals.

The increase in use of pharmaceuticals is creating a corresponding increase in the amount of pharmaceutical waste generated.

Pharmaceutical waste is generated through a wide variety of healthcare activities such as spills/breakage, partially used vials, unused or outdated preparations.

Developing and implementing a pharmaceutical waste program to manage hazardous and non-hazardous pharmaceuticals includes best management practices, waste minimization and regulatory compliance.

Steps to this include (but are not limited to):

1. Reviewing regulations, including RCRA, and determining your facility's generator status,
2. Looking for guidance on how to manage pharmaceutical waste,
3. Drug inventory review,
4. Determining waste minimization opportunities,
5. Communicating and implementing a program.

Designing and implementing a successful pharmaceutical waste management program is an interdisciplinary process including Pharmacy, Environmental Services, Nursing and Administration.

Medical care settings may have different pharmaceutical waste needs depending on the type of practice. Medi-Waste has several options and solutions to assist in the disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

FUN FACTS

- ◆ Only 2% of Earth's population has naturally green eyes.
- ◆ Your nose can remember 50,000 different scents.
- ◆ Strawberries contain more vitamin C than oranges.
- ◆ Smiling can actually boost your immune system.
- ◆ A koi fish named Hanko lived for 225 years.
- ◆ Caterpillars have about 4,000 muscles.
- ◆ The human brain is about 80% water.

MEDI PUZZLER

L I H V K W S V F E P U U E X	BIOHAZARD
P O L T L H A O I A Q K L D H	EPA
F K S A A Q O P I V W V G R N	LEAKPROOF
N X N R U R G L B D W L L A K	MANIFEST
C O P W P Z P N S K K L Q Z Y	MEDICATION
H S I K N R P R L H W L Q A N	PAIL PROGRAM
E P A T O E T S A W M R A H P	PHARMWASTE
A E X G A M A N I F E S T O W	RCRA
L R R M L C P I K J C H I I E	REDBAG
G A C P X N I R W R C T W B I	SHARPS
M L N R R A X D E X P H X M G	TAPE
A I W E X P T R E D C D B E H	WEIGHT
P P W J B B J H J M B C M M T	
E H D L T M V W J D L A K V Y	
U H P L C K L N H M O M G P J	



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Feature Article—Regulated Waste Self-Inspection cont.

- ◆ Are outdoor waste storage areas properly labeled and locked to prevent unauthorized access?
- ◆ Is your waste stored in a manner that protects against access, breeding, or feeding by animals, rodents, and insects?
- ◆ Does packaging/containers of regulated waste to be transported have proper biohazard symbol or labeling?
- ◆ Are regulated medical waste tracking forms (manifests) completed for each shipment of waste sent off for treatment?
- ◆ Are copies of those manifests maintained at your facility for 3 years?

It's that time of year again. We are beginning to deliver our 2017 calendars! If you haven't received yours yet, or if your office would like more, give us a call.