

# MEDI-BITS

## Medi-Waste Tid Bits

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### How will the New Pharmaceutical Waste Regulations Affect You?

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In December 2018, the EPA signed a new bill addressing and clarifying RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) hazardous waste regulations for certain pharmaceutical waste generated in all types of healthcare facilities. The purpose of this rule is to keep prescription drugs out of drinking and surface water, as well as preventing these drugs from reaching the black market.+

According to the EPA, this new rule establishes cost-saving, streamlined standards for handling hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to better fit the operations of the healthcare sector while maintaining protection of human health and the environment.+

What is pharmaceutical waste? All healthcare facilities utilize and administer pharmaceuticals; however, there are situations in which the pharmaceutical can no longer be used and must be discarded. This discarded material, or pharmaceutical waste, must be evaluated to determine if it is hazardous and subject to regulation under RCRA.

While we do not know the full extent of changes and specifics, here are a few highlights of the new rule.

- The requirements apply to prescription pharmaceuticals only.
- It imposes new evaluation, documentation, record keeping, and training requirements on hospitals and outpatient facilities; long term care facilities; medical, dental, veterinary, ambulatory, and chiropractic clinics and offices.
- Healthcare providers that handle pharmaceuticals will need to perform a waste determination and classify the pharmaceutical wastes regarding characteristics of hazard.
- Flushing hazardous waste medication down the toilet is now banned.

The rule is to take effect 6 months after being published in the Federal Register (or June 2019); however, the rule is subject to petitions for reconsideration.

The changes do create significant uncertainty, and we hope to gain insight in the coming weeks.

### MEDI PUZZLER

Win a **prize!** Go to our Facebook page and comment with your favorite cookie by April 15th to be entered to win!  
 For more puzzles like this one, check out our Newsletter Archives online at [www.medimidwest.com](http://www.medimidwest.com).

#### COOKIES

C Z V S D S N V N C H I W A E  
 V H A N W A Z O R S D M U E O  
 Q A O I P J E H B C L Q M P V  
 I Y R C E C O R O A T M E A L  
 M A X K O J M O B X K A Y O N  
 O E Z E C L R X F T N E E Q O  
 Y F D R M E A Z Z U R N O L O  
 Q E P D O Y R T T B U O I M R  
 V S N O K F H B E T H P H H A  
 D U Q O F T U X R C F H L S C  
 O G I D A T I O V D H X Y N A  
 N A M L T H F J S Z S I U S M  
 P R G E F M N D O O A O P W E  
 Q Q R D A E R B R E G N I G I  
 E V S J N V X E V T X M L S V

- CHOCOLATE CHIP
- FORTUNE
- GINGERBREAD
- MACAROON
- NOBAKE
- OATMEAL
- OREO
- PEANUT BUTTER
- SHORTBREAD
- SNICKERDOODLE
- SUGAR




# !?! DID YOU KNOW? !?!

## Numbers & the Human Body

- ⇒ Humans shed **600,000** particles of skin every hour.
- ⇒ Your nose can remember **50,000** different scents.
- ⇒ The average human head has **100,000** hair follicles.
- ⇒ There are about **60,000** miles of blood vessels in the human body.
- ⇒ For the adult human, taking just one step uses **200** muscles.

## Healthcare Dates to Note:

- March 30—National Doctors Day
  - April 28—World Veterinary Day
  - May 6—National Nurses Day
  - May 15—National Facilities Management Day
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- April is Stress Awareness Month.
  - May is Employee Health & Fitness Month.



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## **NEWS FLASH!**

- ✓ MediWaste is a member of the Healthcare Waste Institute/National Waste Recycling Association. The mission of this group is to facilitate responsible healthcare waste management, and be a resource network for the technical and regulatory assistance. Management is excited to attend the Healthcare Waste Conference in May!
- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) marks May 5th every year to promote awareness of the 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' campaign. You are invited to join the campaign and help improve hand hygiene practices at your facility. Go to: <https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/> to learn more about infection prevention and join the campaign!

***Attending an upcoming trade conference? We would love to connect with you!***

Be sure to stop by the MediWaste booth at the following events:

Governor's Public Health Conference: April 3rd, Manhattan  
KAASC Spring Business Seminar: April 24th, Lawrence

KMGMA Spring Conference: April 11th-12th, Wichita  
KFDA Tri-State Convention: May 7th-8th, Overland Park

*\*\*We also plan to attend various events this coming Fall.*