

Title	<b>SAFE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTHCARE CLINICAL WASTE AND STORAGE AT TREATMENT CENTRES</b>			Number	<b>CL41</b>
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## Version Control

(Only last 3 versions, earlier versions can be found in the appropriate Archive directory for the document)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>CHANGED BY</b>
31.05.19	Reviewed no change	SMcD
03.09.19	Updates confirmed and accepted	TM
30.03.22	Updated: Covid pandemic and sharps bin storage added.	SMcD / FW

## Introduction

The management of healthcare waste is an essential part of ensuring that healthcare activities do not pose a risk or potential risk of infection and are securely managed. This guidance provides practical advice for all those involved in the management of healthcare waste and is applicable to all who come into contact with or manage healthcare waste.

## Definition of Clinical Waste

The definition of clinical waste is provided by the Controlled Waste Regulations (issued under the Environmental Protection Act).

Clinical waste is defined as:

- a). “. . . any waste which consists wholly or partly of human or animal tissue, blood or other body fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, syringes, needles or other sharp instruments, being waste which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it; and
- b). any other waste arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, pharmaceutical or similar practice, investigation, treatment, care, teaching or research, or the collection of blood for transfusion, being waste which may cause infection to any person coming into contact with it.”

Any healthcare waste contaminated with blood, pus, wound exudates and similar substances is regarded as presenting a risk of infection.

## Colour-Coding

The national colour-coded segregation system outlined here identifies and segregates waste on the basis of waste classification and suitability of treatment/disposal options in line with classifications.

### Orange clinical waste bags:

Orange bags should be used for soft clinical wastes. They are used to indicate that the waste is suitable for disinfection processes such as autoclaves, rather than requiring incineration.

The following must **NOT** be placed in the orange bag:

- Medicinally- or chemically-contaminated wastes
- Contaminated dressings that contain an active pharmaceutical agent
- Domestic-type wastes, including hand towels
- Offensive wastes (waste that is non-infectious but may cause offence due to the presence of recognisable healthcare waste items, body fluids, or odour).

Examples of waste that can be placed in this waste stream include:

- Contaminated PPE (gloves, aprons, etc.)
- Contaminated dressings that do not contain an active pharmaceutical agent
- Syringe bodies contaminated with body fluids, but **NOT** medicines



### Yellow clinical waste receptacles/bags:

Yellow waste receptacles/bags should only be used for waste items that are:

Infectious clinical waste (see definition of 'Clinical Waste' above) and incineration is the sole disposal option.

*NB: all waste to be disposed of in clinical waste at all sites designated as "hot" sites.*

*Colour coding key to segregation system:*

Colour	Description
	<b>Waste which requires disposal by incineration</b> Indicative treatment/disposal required is <b>incineration</b> in a suitably permitted or licensed facility.
	<b>Waste which may be 'treated'</b> Indicative treatment/disposal required is to be 'rendered safe' in a suitably permitted or licensed facility, usually alternative treatment plants. <b>However, this waste may also be disposed of by incineration.</b>

## Safety and Process

- It is the responsibility of each user to ensure that clinical waste receptacles/bags are no more than two-thirds full.
- The Cleaning Contractors are responsible for replacing waste receptacles/bags as and when required. They will place the full waste receptacle/bag in the 'yellow storage container (labelled 'CLINICAL WASTE ONLY') located outside the building.
- In the event that the 'yellow storage container' located outside the building is full or the contents has not been collected by the contracted waste handler, the clinical waste receptacles/bags should be placed in the sluice room of the minor operations theatre until such time when the contents in the 'yellow storage container' located outside the building has been collected.
- Replacement waste receptacles/bags are supplied by the contracted waste handler, Birmingham City Council. In the event that there are no supplies available, please inform a Manager or Team Leader.
- Sharps must be segregated into the correct receptacle and the receptacle should be collected when filled to the 'fill line' and should not exceed the permissible 'fill line'.
- Sharps bins are NEVER to be kept on floors.
- Currently, the 'yellow storage container' located on any site is emptied by the contracted waste handler on regular days. Staff should familiarise themselves with arrangements at their own treatment centre.
- The 'yellow storage container' located outside the building will be kept locked at all times, with access permitted to staff only. The key to the 'yellow storage container' will be kept secure. Staff should familiarise themselves with arrangements at their own treatment centre.