

<b>Iredell Memorial Hospital</b>	<i>Infection Control - Interdisciplinary</i>	<i>Policy #</i>	<b>2.01</b>
	<u>Subject</u>	<i>Date</i>	2/2012
	<b>Handling and Disposal of Infectious Waste</b>	<i>Supersedes</i>	5/2009

**POLICY:**

Infectious waste shall be managed and handled in such a way as to provide a safe environment for patients and the community.

**DEFINITION OF INFECTIOUS (REGULATED) WASTE:**

1. Microbiological Waste – includes cultures of specimens from medical and pathological laboratories.
2. Pathological Waste – includes human tissue, organs and body parts.
3. Contaminated Sharps – includes needles, syringes, scalpel blades, cautery tips.
- \*4. Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious material. Other potentially infectious material means: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.
- \*5. Contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed.
- \*6. Items caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling.
- \* As defined by the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Final Rule 29 CFR 1910.1030.

NOTE: Radioactive wastes, chemotherapy wastes and hazardous chemical wastes require special handling and are addressed in other policies.

<b>COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL</b>		
<b>Type of Waste</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Final Disposal</b>
General office waste	Brown or clear bag	Landfill
Newspapers	Brown or clear bag	Landfill
Paper towels for handwashing	Brown or clear bag	Landfill
Kitchen waste, food	Brown or clear bag	Landfill
Needles, syringes, sharps	Needle boxes that are placed in biohazard waste carrier	Medical Waste Hauler

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<b>Type of Waste</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Final Disposal</b>
Items <u>visibly</u> contaminated with blood/body fluids such as: gloves, dressings, gauzes, sponges, cotton balls	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Tubing: IV, suction catheters, arterial lines, respiratory tubing, urinary catheters, airways, transducers, nasogastric/parenteral feeding tubes <u>visibly contaminated with blood/body fluids</u>	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Emptied collection devices such as hemovacs, drainage bags	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Microbiological waste	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Laboratory waste – specimen containers, vacutainers, blood tubes, glass and plastic items used to contain, measure or transport specimens, petri dishes, tubes and slides, gauzes used in specimen processing	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Large volume fluid-filled containers (greater than 20 mls) such as suction canisters, pleurovacs	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Large bandages and dressings that contain purulent, infected drainage	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Items contaminated with large amounts of blood such as sponges, drapes, gowns from Operating Room, Delivery Room/Birthing Room, Emergency Room, Cardiac Cath Lab	Red bag	Medical Waste Hauler
Pathological waste (human tissues, organs and body parts)	Red bag that is placed in plastic-lined “Biohazard Waste” box	Disposal by off-site incineration by contracted service

### **Procedure for Disposal of Needles, Syringes and Sharps:**

1. Needles, syringes, and sharps are placed in puncture-resistant containers.
2. When containers are full (should not be filled higher than the fill line), they are sealed and removed to the soiled utility room.
3. These containers are picked up by Housekeeping Department and taken to designated storage area for Safe Waste treatment process.

### **Procedure for Disposal of Biohazard Waste:**

1. Biohazard waste is placed in designated waste receptacles available in each department and patient care area.
2. The designated biohazard containers are collected by housekeeping personnel on a regular schedule (frequency is determined by area and need) and removed to the refrigerated trailer behind the hospital.

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3. These containers are removed from the refrigerated area by the Safe Waste personnel for the treatment process. They are then sanitized prior to reuse.
4. Pathological waste from the Laboratory, Morgue, and the Birth Place is placed in “Biohazard Waste” boxes that are lined with a red bag. The “Biohazard Waste” boxes are sealed by housekeeping personnel and removed to the refrigerated trailer for pickup by Safe Waste for off-site incineration.
5. Manifesting – Safe Waste personnel will bring a manifest and will complete the form with appropriate information such as hospital name, address, number of cartons, etc. Housekeeping or Maintenance personnel will verify the number of boxes and will sign and date the form.

NOTE: Chemotherapy related wastes shall be packaged separately and boxes will be labeled “Chemotherapy.”

Revised: 10/2006, 5/2009, 2/2012

Approved by IMH Infection Control Committee 2/2012