

FL Department of Health in Manatee County

Annual Biomedical Waste Code Training

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**Biomedical Waste Program
Supervisor**



To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.



Training Topics

- Definition and Identification of Biomedical Waste
 - Segregation
 - Storage
 - Labeling
 - Transport
 - Procedure for Decontaminating Biomedical Waste Spills
 - Contingency Plan for Emergency Transport
 - Procedure for Containment
- (This training will detail compliance with 64E-16 Florida Administrative Code.)



Who regulates Biomedical Waste in FL?

- The Department of Health!
- Florida Statute (FS) 381.0098 gives the Department of Health the regulatory authority over the proper management of biomedical waste
- The Environmental Health Division permits and inspects biomedical waste **Generators**, **Storage Facilities** and **Transporters** to ensure that this waste is disposed of properly



Environmental Health Program

- The objective of the biomedical waste program is to protect health care workers, environmental-service staff, waste haulers, and the general public from risks associated with potentially infectious biomedical waste



Generators

- Places or persons that generate biomedical waste in the course of routine business
- Examples: Hospitals, Clinics, Dentists, Tattooists, Acupuncturists, Veterinarians, Doctor's Offices, Nursing Homes, Funeral Homes, and Health Departments



Storage Facilities

- Businesses that store packaged biomedical waste for longer than 3 days, at a generator, or in a transport vehicle, or in an interim facility prior to pick-up by a transporter



Transporters

- Businesses that are registered with the state to transport Biomedical Waste from generators or storage facilities to the final treatment facility



Who is at risk?

- Health Care Community
- Sanitation Workers
- Housekeeping Staff
- General Public



How is the general public at risk??

- When biomedical waste is improperly disposed of in public places



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Any solid or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans, including:
 - ◆ non-liquid tissue, **blood, bloodproducts**, and body parts from humans and other primates;
 - ◆ lab and veterinary wastes which contain human disease-causing agents;
 - ◆ **discarded sharps**



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Used, **absorbent** materials **saturated** with blood, blood products, body fluids, or excretions or secretions contaminated with visible blood, and absorbent materials saturated with blood or blood products that have dried (**Examples, bloody gauze or bandage**)
- **Non-absorbent**, disposable devices that have been **contaminated** with blood, body fluids or secretions or excretions visibly contaminated with blood, but have not been treated by an approved method (**Examples, a speculum, or a glove**)

Defining Biomedical Waste

- Examples of body fluids that have the potential to harbor bloodborne pathogens are:
 - ◆ semen
 - ◆ vaginal
 - ◆ lymph
 - ◆ peritoneal
 - ◆ synovial
 - ◆ pericardial
 - ◆ amniotic
 - ◆ pleural
 - ◆ cerebrospinal

Defining Biomedical Waste

- Applies to Humans **AND** Primates
- Tissue and body parts, blood and blood products, plasma, serum, cells & platelets, whole blood are considered biomedical waste



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Secretions and excretions considered Biomedical Waste **if** visibly contaminated **with blood**
 - ◆ urine
 - ◆ feces
 - ◆ sweat
 - ◆ vomitus
 - ◆ saliva
 - ◆ tears
 - ◆ nasal discharges



Defining Biomedical Waste

- “Sharps” are biomedical waste which can puncture, lacerate or break the skin
 - ◆ Needles
 - ◆ Syringes with needle attached
 - ◆ Scalpels
 - ◆ Specimen slides
 - ◆ Contaminated broken glass
 - ◆ Contaminated broken hard plastic



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Some Laboratory Waste is Biomedical Waste

- ◆ Specimens
- ◆ Cultures
- ◆ Vaccines
- ◆ Biologicals
- ◆ Recombinants



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Some veterinary waste is considered biomedical waste
 - ◆ Needles and needles with syringes attached
 - ◆ Animals with zoonotic disease
 - ◆ Primate biomedical waste



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Items that are **NOT** considered to be biomedical waste:
 - ◆ Linen that is to be laundered and reused
 - ◆ Dead human bodies that are disposed of by a person licensed under the provisions of Chapter 470, Florida Statutes
 - ◆ Transport of bodies, parts of bodies, or tissue specimens for lawful examination, investigation or autopsy
 - ◆ Testing or research specimens



Defining Biomedical Waste

- Co-mixing waste:
 - ◆ All biomedical waste which is mixed with hazardous waste shall be managed as hazardous waste
 - ◆ All biomedical waste which is mixed with radioactive waste shall be managed as radioactive waste
 - ◆ All solid waste, other than hazardous and radioactive, which is mixed with biomedical waste shall be managed as *biomedical waste*

Segregation at the Point of Origin

- Biomedical waste consists of SHARPS; such as, needles, lancets, syringes, speculums, empty vaccine vials, and specimen slides and vials; are to be placed into the sharps container *in the immediate vicinity*
- CONTAMINATED ABSORBENTS; such as, dressings, gauze, cotton, 4x4's and
- drapes from examination tables; and
- CONTAMINATED NON-ABSORBENTS;
- such as, tubings and speculums; are
- to be placed in the red bags provided
- *in the treatment room*



Segregation and Labeling

- Filled sharps containers and red bags are to be secured at the **point of origin** and placed into larger transport containers for pick up by the contracted biomedical waste transporter
- All of biomedical waste red bags are to be labeled with facility name and address
- The exterior of the transport boxes are to be labeled with the transporter's information



Red Bag Labeling

- Must have international biological hazard symbol
 - 6” diameter for bags 14” x 19” or larger
 - 1” diameter for bags smaller than 14” x 19”
- **AND**, one of the following phrases:
 - “BIOMEDICAL WASTE”,
 - “BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE”,
 - “BIOHAZARD”, “INFECTIOUS WASTE”
 - or “INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE”



Red Bag Standards

- Impact resistance of 165 grams and tearing resistance of 480 grams in both the parallel and perpendicular planes with respect to the length of the bag. Impact resistance shall be determined using ASTM D-1709-91, and tearing resistance shall be determined using ASTM D-1922-89
- Red bag documentation must be kept by the facility with the Management Plan



Sharps Containers

- Puncture resistant (*not* puncture proof)
- Identified with the international biological hazard symbol 1” diameter or larger
- And, one of the following phrases:
“BIOMEDICAL WASTE”,
“BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE”,
“BIOHAZARD”, “INFECTIOUS WASTE”
or “INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE”



Storage Areas

- This is the area in the facility where packaged biomedical waste, usually transport boxes, rest until they are picked up by the transporter; or where the full closed sharps containers will be stored until picked up by the transporter (or mailed back)
- Packages are any material that completely envelops biomedical waste. This includes red bags, sharps containers and outer containers



Interior Storage Areas

- The floors and walls of these rooms are to be made of smooth impervious materials which lend themselves to easy cleansing and are located beyond patient care areas away from client traffic
- These rooms are to be restricted by means of a lock, *or* a barrier (door), *or* a label, *or* in place out of patient traffic areas
- Storage cannot exceed **30 days!**



Spills

- Decontaminating spills:
 - ◆ All surfaces contaminated with spilled or leaked biomedical waste shall be decontaminated as part of the cleaning process.
 - ◆ Spills kits can be purchased or assembled by the facility. Guidelines are provided by the Environmental Health Services division of the Dept of Health in Manatee County
 - ◆ Review the procedure in your plan with your staff!



Spill Kits



- Typical items found in pre-made spill kits are:
 - ◆ Antiseptic cleansing wipes
 - ◆ Fluid control solidifier
 - ◆ Biohazard scoop (or dust pan and broom)
 - ◆ Red biohazard bag
 - ◆ Sharps container
 - ◆ Disposable clean-up towels
 - ◆ Tuberculocidal wipes
 - ◆ Gloves
 - ◆ Instructions



Training

- All employees are trained on the Biomedical Waste Code AND on their facility's Biomedical Waste Management Plan
- New employees must receive **initial** training. Existing employees should receive training **annually** or when the plan and/or code changes
- Training records are to be maintained with the facility's Biomedical Waste Management Plan



Records

- All biomedical waste transport and disposal records shall be maintained for a 3 year period and shall be available for review by the Department at time of inspection. These records are to include:
 - ◆ Contracts with any and all transport companies
 - ◆ Manifests/Receipts from transport companies
 - ◆ Weight logs if the generator is transporting the waste
 - ◆ Non-regular pick-up logs (sharps only)



Biomedical Waste (Management) Plan

- A facility specific written plan to manage biomedical waste is required at all facilities. The plan must include:
 - ◆ Description of training for personnel;
 - ◆ Procedures for segregating, labeling, packaging, transporting, storing, and treating biomedical waste;
 - ◆ Procedure for decontaminating biomedical waste spills
 - ◆ Contingency plan for emergencies



Private Citizens

- People who generate biomedical waste at home when they administer their own injections, can segregate and package their sharps in a manner that reduces the chance of exposure to the public

Options:

- ◆ Local sharps exchange program
- ◆ U.S. Postal Service approved mail-in sharps program
- ◆ Other approved method by the Department



Don't forget....



ALWAYS dispose of Biomedical Waste at the point of origin and in the correct containers!
Which picture is a violation and why?

The End

Remember to review your facility's
Biomedical Waste Management Plan at
this time.

That will complete your Biomedical Waste
64E-16 training requirements!



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