QUEBEC BIOMEDICAL WASTE STREAM **MANAGEMENT**

Disclaimer: This is a GUIDE ONLY and is intended to provide general information. Users of this guide are strongly encouraged to check applicable local regulations.

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MAKING HEALTHCARE SAFER
SOINS DE SANTÉ PLUS SÉCURITAIRES

BLOOD WASTE

Green container with ivory lid

Liquid blood, items saturated with blood, fluids visibly containing blood, or microbiology lab waste.

EXAMPLES

- Blood tubing & bags
- Pleuravacs or hemovacs
- Disposable items that are saturated with blood (dripping)
- Used suction canisters
- Microbiology specimens, cultures, and vaccines, and disposable lab supplies that have come into contact with them (pipette tips, swabs, etc.)

NOT ALLOWED

- Feces, urine, sputum, vomit UNLESS there is visible blood
- Items that are bloody but not saturated with blood
- Packaging or trash

ANATOMICAL WASTE

Red pail or cardboard box with red liner

All human and animal tissues, organs, and body parts, excluding hair, nails, and teeth.

EXAMPLES

- Biopsy material
- Pathology samples
- Amputations

NOT ALLOWED

- Packaging and trash
- Cytotoxic waste

SHARPS WASTE

Yellow sharps container

Items capable of causing punctures or cuts.

EXAMPLES

- Empty needles and syringes
- Empty vials
- Empty ampules
- Scalpel blades
- Trocars
- Scissors
- Disposable instruments
- Suture sets
- Other sharp objects

NOT ALLOWED

- Medications
- Packaging or trash

CYTOTOXIC WASTE

Red sharps container, red pail, or cardboard box with red liner

CYTOTOXIC SHARPS WASTE

Disposed into red sharps container.

Sharps contaminated with cytotoxic medication.

EXAMPLES

- Needles and syringes
- Cytotoxic medication vials and ampoules

NON-SHARP CYTOTOXIC WASTE

Disposed into red pail or red bag.

Non-sharp items that have come into contact with cytotoxic medication.

EXAMPLES

- IV bags and tubing
- PPE

NOT ALLOWED

- Anatomical waste
- Pharmaceutical waste

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

White sharps container with blue lid, white Rx pail, or a cardboard box with a red liner

RX SHARPS WASTE

Disposed into white sharps container with blue lid.

Sharps containing medication.

EXAMPLES

- Ampoules or vials containing medication
- Syringes with residual medications

NON-SHARP RX WASTE

Disposed into white Rx pail or cardboard box with red liner.

Expired or unused medication.

EXAMPLES

- IV bags with residual medications
- Pills
- Patches
- Ointments
- Oral liquids

NOT ALLOWED

- Cytotoxic medication
- Packaging or trash

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Secure a Drug or Rx Destroyer container

Medications classified as controlled substances by Health Canada (narcotics, opioids, etc.)

Remove medication from all packaging prior to disposing into SaD/RxD. Liquid medications must be drawn up and squirted into the container. Empty vials/ampoules/syringes then go into sharps container. Pill bottles, blister packs, etc. go into the garbage (remove patient identifiers first).

EXAMPLES

- Pills containing controlled substances
- Patches containing controlled substances
- Liquid controlled substances (oral or IV/ injectable)

NOT ALLOWED

- Uncontrolled medications
- Effervescent medications
- Medication packaging

REGULAR WASTE

Garbage bin

Waste that requires no further treatment before disposal to landfill.

EXAMPLES

- Food packaging
- Chux/underpads and disposable patient items
- Gloves
- Wrappers
- Masks
- Briefs
- Catheter bags
- Saline IV bags
- Empty IV bags

NOT ALLOWED

- Biomedical waste of any type

RECYCLABLE WASTE

Recycling bin

Paper, plastic, and metal items to be recycled.

EXAMPLES

- Non-confidential paper
- Plastic medicine cups
- Plastic bottles
- Cans

NOT ALLOWED

- Biomedical waste of any type

DEFINITIONS

***Empty:** As much waste as possible has been removed from the container, no more than 3% by weight of the total capacity of the container remains.