

## References

NHMRC (2019) Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare. Commonwealth of Australia

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2019>

Victoria: Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009

EPA Victoria: Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines—Clinical and Related Waste Operational Guidance 2009

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/waste-guidance/clinical-waste-guidance>

## Resources

For other booklets and resources visit the Grampians Region Health Collaborative Website—Infection Control at:

<http://infectioncontrol.grampianshealth.org.au/>

## Cartoons in this booklet by:

<http://www.davegibb.com.au/index.htm>



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## A LITTLE YELLOW INFECTION CONTROL BOOK

# CLINICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT



**Grampians Region Infection Control Group  
2019**

## About this book:

A Little Yellow Book Clinical Waste Management has been designed to complement your organisations policy and procedure. There is no national approach to clinical waste management and therefore this booklet outlines the requirements for clinical waste management in Victoria only. For other states and territories please consult your EPA regulations.

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Original: 2014  
Revisions: 2018, 2019

## What type of container/ bag is appropriate for your setting



## Summary

Know your agency policy and procedures for clinical waste management

Follow safe handling techniques

Use the right container for the waste generated

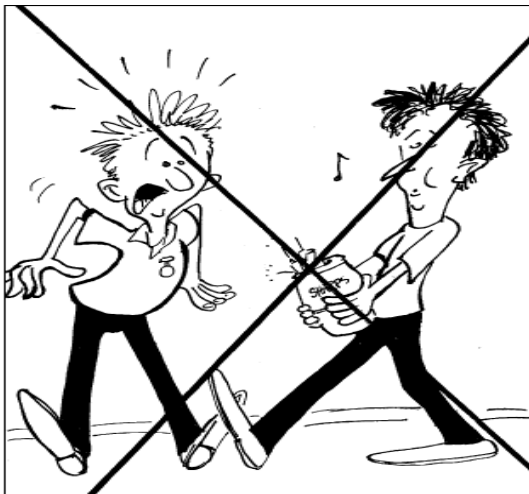
Segregate correctly

State Government of Victoria, Australia  
Department of Health and Human Services



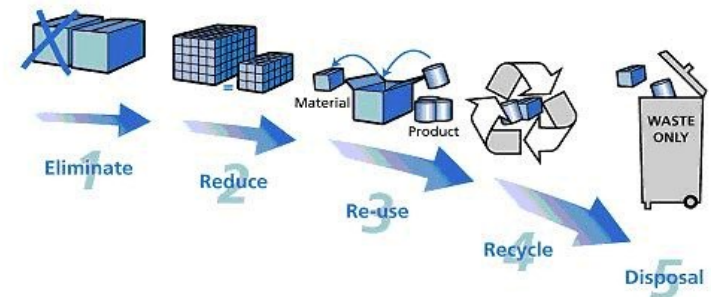
## Handling Clinical Waste

- ⇒ Discarding at point of generation
- ⇒ No decanting/ double handling
- ⇒ No compacting by hand
- ⇒ No handing waste from one person to another for disposal
- ⇒ No carrying bags or containers close to the body
- ⇒ No over filling of receptacles
- ⇒ Receptacles closed securely when full
- ⇒ Receptacles locked if required for public safety
- ⇒ Receptacles transported to storage areas using mobile trolleys or bins.



## Introduction

There is no national approach for the management of clinical waste from cradle to grave, and no national definition of clinical waste in Australia.



Healthcare facilities currently refer to the relevant state or territory legislation and regulations, Australian standards, and industry guidelines to inform policy development on the management of clinical waste in their facility.



## Clinical Waste Management Regulations/Guidelines Relevant to Victoria

Environment Protection (Industrial Waste  
Resource) Regulations 2009

EPA Victoria: Industrial Waste Resource  
Guidelines—Clinical and Related Waste  
Operational Guidance 2009

Biohazard Waste Industry (BWI): Industry  
Code of Practice for the Management of Biohazard  
Waste (Including Clinical and Related Wastes),  
7th edition, July 2014



Routine infection control measures to be used at  
all times during patient care

## STANDARD PRECAUTIONS



## Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions are used for all patient care to prevent infection transmission because any person, their body fluids and excretions; may be colonised or infected with transmissible microbes.

Standard Precautions should be used in handling of blood (including dried blood); all other body substances, secretions, and excretions (excluding sweat), regardless of whether they contain visible blood, non intact skin and mucous membranes.

Standard precautions consist of:

- Hand hygiene
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Safe use and disposal of sharps
- Routine environmental cleaning
- Reprocessing of reusable medical equipment
- Respiratory and cough hygiene
- Aseptic non-touch technique
- **Waste management**
- Appropriate handling of linen

## Australian Standards

Clinical and related waste management  
Australian and New Zealand Standard 3816  
Management of Clinical and Related  
Wastes, 2018

Non- reusable sharps containers  
Australian Standard AS 4031 Non-reusable  
Containers for the Collection of Sharp Medical  
Items used in Healthcare Areas, 1992

Reusable sharps containers  
Australia/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4261  
Reusable Containers for the Collection of Sharp  
Items in Human and Animal Medical Applications,  
1994



## Clinical Waste Definition

EPA Victoria: Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines-  
Clinical and Related Waste Operational Guidance 2009

Clinical waste is that which is generated in healthcare during investigations or treatment for patients/clients and during research projects.

This industrial waste is generated in a clinical or similar setting that has the potential to cause disease, injury, or public offence, and includes:

### 10 Types of Clinical Waste

1. Sharps
2. A clinical specimen other than urine or faeces
3. A specimen of urine and faeces taken for laboratory testing
4. A Laboratory culture
5. Human tissue - anatomical parts, pathology specimens, biopsy specimens, placenta
6. Animal tissues, carcasses and other wastes
7. Human blood or body fluids other than urine or faeces
8. Material or equipment containing human blood or body fluids other than urine or faeces
9. Urine and faeces, or materials or equipment containing urine and faeces where there is visible blood
10. Waste from persons known to have or suspected of having a communicable disease

**Types 1, 7, 8, 9, 10 are expanded further on the following pages.**

## What happens to Clinical and Related Waste when it leaves the agency

### Clinical waste:

Sharps and items contaminated with blood and body fluids are:

- Shredded
- Placed in a steam chamber to a sterile temperature
- Treated with high dose hypochlorite
- Compacted
- Sent to landfill

### Related wastes:

Cytotoxic, radioactive, pharmaceuticals, anatomical parts are:

- incinerated





## Segregation of each waste stream



Correct segregation

Reduces volume

Reduces cost

# Know which bin to throw it in!™

**YELLOW BAG or BIN**  
is only for  
**"CLINICAL WASTE"**

CLINICAL WASTE ONLY



NO SHARPS OR GENERAL WASTE



THANK YOU

**Waste Segregation is up to you, so before you throw, Know which bin to throw it in!**

If in doubt or for more specific disposal requirements contact Waste Management or Infection Control

Know which bin to throw it in! Waste education program supported by

For all your Industrial grade Clinical and General waste containers with foot pedals. Know which bin to throw it in! Posters

Queensland Government  
Environmental Protection Agency

Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane LTD

Contact: KDL Products  
PH: 07 55913077

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**Sharps include:**

- syringes
- needles
- lancets
- scalpel blades
- anything capable of cutting or penetrating the skin.

Where items such as disposable glassware and dentists' drill bits are contaminated (e.g. by blood, body fluids, cultures, etc, they should be disposed of as sharps rather than in the normal clinical waste stream.

**Human blood or body fluids other than urine or faeces includes:**

- whole blood
- blood components such as serum and plasma
- body fluids including cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, amniotic, semen, Vaginal secretions and any fluid visibly contaminated with blood.

**Materials or equipment containing human blood or body fluids other than urine or faeces includes:**

- sanitary napkin from patient area.
- bandages and dressings soiled with blood and body fluids.
- discarded contaminated equipment, ie. equipment contaminated with blood or other body fluids.

**Urine or faeces, or materials or equipment containing urine or faeces, where there is visible blood:**

Unless there is visible blood, incontinence pads and disposable nappies are not considered clinical wastes. Urine and faeces from patients undergoing therapy may contain drugs and their metabolic by-products. Disposal of these wastes to sewer is unavoidable and is not prohibited or restricted.

**Waste from patients known to have, or suspected of having a communicable disease**

All waste in this category is considered clinical waste. It is not possible to determine the extent and duration for which this waste remains infectious. It will depend on the particular infection, the state or type of the infection, the state or type of the disease and in some cases, the effect or specific treatment. Designating waste to this category should be based on consideration of the known modes of transmission.



EPA Industrial Waste Resource  
Guidelines—Clinical and Related Waste  
Operational Guidance 2009