


2292 REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE	
Chapter: Sununu Youth Services Center	Section: Healthcare
	New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual Policy Directive: _____ Approved: _____ Effective Date: 01-01-09 Scheduled Review Date: 01-01-11
	William W. Fenniman, DJJS Director
Related Statute(s): Related Admin Rule(s): Related Federal Regulation(s):	Related Form(s): Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

It is essential to ensure proper collection, storage, and disposal of regulated medical waste with an emphasis on safety.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the SYSC Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) procedure.

Procedure

- I. When there is contamination by regulated medical waste, the waste shall be properly cleaned up. Small volumes of blood tinged pads, paper towels, etc. do not need to be red bagged nor do menstrual pads or tampons.

- II. **Point of Exposure**
 - A. At the point of exposure or spill the following procedure shall be followed:
 1. Assemble materials and equipment. Put on all personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves for all RMW handling. PPE such as gowns, masks, and booties may also be used if contact may occur. Use a Blood Borne Pathogens kit for the cleanup. Additional supplies can be obtained from medical or maintenance.
 2. Place RMW into red plastic regulated medical waste bag. The bag must be at least 3 ml thick and impervious. *Handle all RMW as though there were a needle inside.
 3. Tie knots in all bags to seal in contaminants. Complete and affix a tag that states the date, time and unit the waste is from.
 4. Properly dispose of bags in the appropriate RMW Can.
 5. Carefully remove PPE and properly dispose.
 6. Wash your hands.
 7. Keep RMW receptacles covered at all times.
 8. RMW Storage Containers shall be labeled conspicuously in a legible manner with the words "infectious waste," or "biohazard waste," or with the universally biohazard symbol or be painted RED.

III. **Internal Collection:**

- A. The SYSC internal collection shall be as follows:
 - 1. Housekeeping will check every RMW can in all residential buildings, in the medical area and in the school area once a day. All other areas, notify housekeeping if you have a RMW bag or sharps container that needs to be picked up.
 - 2. If there is any RMW in the can then the housekeeper shall remove the bag and install a new red regulated Medical Waste liner. NOTE: RMW cans must be disinfected by the housekeeping staff at least once a week or when visibly soiled.
 - 3. Housekeeping shall take the red bags to the maintenance area and store the red bags in the RMW refrigerator.
 - 4. Housekeeping shall check the refrigerator in maintenance once a week for red bags.
 - 5. When there are a sufficient number of bags, the housekeeper shall fill a RMW box with the red bags and take the box to the outside RMW freezer.
 - 6. Under no circumstances should RMW be left un-refrigerated for more than 72 hours.

IV. **Sharps Containers:**

- A. Sharps containers, containing sharp items likely to be contaminated, shall be collected as follows:
 - 1. When a sharps container is full the residential staff shall seal the container and place in a red RMW plastic bag.
 - 2. Complete and affix a tag that states the date, time, and unit the waste is from.
 - 3. Containers encasing sharps shall be sealed and labeled "not for recycling" and the waste shall be disposed in a locked and refrigerated storage area.
 - 4. Hand deliver the red bagged/sealed sharps container directly to housekeeping.

V. **External Collection:**

- A. RMW shall be picked up by the vendor quarterly from the refrigerated storage area as specified in the Hazardous Waste-Regulated Medical Waste Removal Contract. A contact person and a back up contact person shall be identified at SYSC. The vendor shall be given the names of these employees.

VI. **Linen Clothing:**

- A. When there is contamination by regulated medical waste, the waste shall be properly cleaned up. Small volumes of blood tinged pads, paper towel, etc. do not need to be red bagged nor do menstrual pads or tampons.

1. At the point of exposure or spill assemble the required materials and equipment. Put on all personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the situation at hand. The protective equipment may include gloves, gowns, masks, goggles and shoe covers.
2. Place contaminated bed linen, towels, clothing into the inside (Vinyl) bag (do not use water soluble bags) and then tie the inner bag.
3. Place the inner (Vinyl) bag inside the outer (cloth like) bag and then tie the outer bag.
4. Complete and affix a tag that identifies the contents, contaminant, date, time and unit the bag is from.
5. Carefully remove PPE and properly dispose.
6. Wash your hands.
7. Keep laundry carts covered at all times.
8. Red laundry bags shall only be used for contaminated linen and clothing.

VII. Laundry Schedule:

- A. Laundry personnel shall pick up contaminated Red Bag linen and clothing once a day from each of the residential units and medical. When necessary due to the absence of laundry personnel, residential units and Medical Department shall deliver their Red Bags directly to the laundry.

VIII. Contaminated Laundry:

- A. Laundry personnel will follow all policies and procedures for the cleaning of contaminated laundry and then return cleaned laundry to the respective unit with other clean linen.