

GN 5 – Guidance Notes for Storage and Disposal of Clinical Waste

This Authorities advice in relation to the storage and disposal of clinical waste produced by Special Treatments Premises licensed under the London Local Authorities Act 1991 is given as follows:

Waste can be divided into categories:

- Household waste
- Commercial waste – includes non hazardous materials produced in the running of a business such as paper, food and food wrapping.
- Industrial waste which includes clinical waste.

Definitions

Clinical waste is defined as:

'Any waste that consists wholly or partly of:

- Human or animal tissue
- Blood or other bodily fluids
- Excretions
- Swabs or dressings
- Syringes, needles or other sharp instruments

Which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it'

Clinical waste is divided into groups, the groups specific to Special treatment premises are as follows:

Group A

Identifiable human tissue, blood, skin, soiled dressings, swabs and other similarly soiled waste. This includes all swabs, wipes, tissues and dressings or any other item used to wipe or clean the skin of a person undergoing invasive treatments. Waxing strips contain identifiable human waste but can be classified as Group E in most instances.

Group B

Contaminated disposable sharp instruments

Group A and B waste must be disposed of by incineration using a registered waste carrier.

Group E

Items used to dispose of bodily secretions and excretions which do not fall into Group A.

Invasive Treatments

For the purposes of this guidance an invasive treatment is defined as any procedure that pierces the skin or a treatment which causes, or can cause, bleeding and includes the following treatments:

Tattooing
Body piercing

Cosmetic piercing
Acupuncture
Electrolysis or thermology, whether or not bleeding occurs
Micropigmentation including all forms of permanent and semi-permanent make-up
Sclerotherapy

Segregation

Waste must be segregated at the point of production in order that it is stored and handled correctly according to type and risk. It is the responsibility of the licensee to determine which group the waste falls into and to make appropriate arrangements for the handling, storage and disposal of the waste.

Handling and storage of clinical waste

Group A waste

Must be placed into yellow clinical waste sacks held in a suitable container at the point of production. The sacks must be specifically designed for the storage of clinical waste and conform to the relevant British Standard and /or any other guidance or Codes of Practice relating to clinical waste.

All sacks must be clearly identified with the source

If the sacks are removed from the holding container they must be stored in a locked, secure, easily cleansable, storage area while awaiting collection by a registered waste carrier. Where the sacks remain in the holder and need to be stored prior to collection they must be held in the locked, secure, easily cleansable, area. There must be a biohazard sign clearly displayed on the door of the storage area.

Group B waste

Sharps must be disposed of in rigid yellow sharps containers conforming to BS7320:1990. To prevent the risks associated with overfilling the containers should only be used until $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Used containers must be sealed and held securely while awaiting collection by a registered waste carrier.

Group E waste

For a small waste producer with a healthy client base Group E waste can be disposed of in trade or domestic waste providing it is adequately wrapped and free from excess fluids. It is important therefore to determine the risks associated with the waste from waxing as a result of a client consultation to determine if the waste can be classified as Group E. If the client is known to be suffering from, or is a carrier of, an infectious disease then the waste would become clinical and require handling as Group A clinical waste.

Waste Carriers

Group A and B clinical waste must be transported by a registered waste carrier. Registration is covered by the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations 1991 and it is the duty of the licensee to ensure that they appoint a suitable carrier to transport the waste.

Clinical waste must be labelled clearly to show:

- The point of origin
- UN3291 (Transportation of Dangerous Goods)
- The appropriate danger symbol present on all approved clinical waste containers and sacks.

The waste carrier must provide a waste transfer note which identifies the type of waste, type of container, quantity, time and place of transfer and the name and address of the transferor and transferee. Transfer notes must be held on the premises for a period of two years and be available for inspection by authorised officers.

Information on clinical waste carriers can be obtained from this office on 020 8359 7995.