

SFHCHS212

Disposal of clinical and non clinical waste within healthcare



Overview

This standard relates to the safe handling and disposal of health care waste. It has a broad application and it is relevant for all methods of disposal. This standard covers equipment, medical devices, radioactive, chemical, biological, environmental, clinical and non clinical materials and confidential waste.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHCHS212

Disposal of clinical and non clinical waste within healthcare

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability
- P2 follow the appropriate procedures, policies and protocols for the method of collection and containment level according to the waste type
- P3 apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control and personal protective equipment relevant to the type and category of waste
- P4 where appropriate, consult with other users to identify the types, quantities and physical form of waste being generated
- P5 segregate the waste material from your work areas in line with current legislation and organisational requirements
- P6 check the accuracy of the labelling that identifies the type and content of waste for transfer
- P7 confirm suitability of containers for any required course of action appropriate to the type of waste disposal
- P8 check the waste has undergone the required processes to make it safe for transport and disposal
- P9 transport the waste to the disposal site, taking into consideration its associated risks
- P10 where direct measures are not possible, use alternative accepted methodologies for removal of waste
- P11 report and deal with spillages and contamination in accordance with current legislation and procedures
- P12 maintain full, accurate and legible records of information and store in correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

SFHCHS212

Disposal of clinical and non clinical waste within healthcare

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base
- K2 the range of stakeholders involved, their information needs, roles and responsibilities with regard to waste management
- K3 the categories of waste according to national and local guidelines and the importance of this
- K4 the appropriate approved disposal routes for your waste permitted under authorisation and relevant legislation
- K5 the appropriate containment or dismantling requirements for waste and how to make the waste safe for disposal within your work practice
- K6 why it is important to adhere to the organisational and national waste management principles and procedures for your waste and the implications of not doing so
- K7 the hazards and risks associated with the disposal and the importance of risk assessments and how to provide these
- K8 the personal protective equipment required appropriate to the different types of waste generated by work activities under your responsibility
- K9 the importance of working in a safe manner when carrying out procedures for disposal in line with local and national policies and legislation
- K10 the waste streams for disposal available to the organisation and their applicability to the range of waste generated by your work activities
- K11 the required actions and reporting procedures for any accidents, spillages and contamination involving waste
- K12 the requirements of the relevant external agencies involved in the transport and receipt of your waste
- K13 why it is important to segregate different types of waste and how to do this
- K14 the safe methods of storage and maintaining security of your waste and the permitted accumulation times
- K15 the methods for transporting and monitoring your waste disposal and the appropriateness of each method to a given scenario
- K16 why it is important to report any problems or delays in waste collection and where to seek advice and guidance
- K17 the importance of keeping adequate records pertaining to your waste materials and the consequences of not doing so
- K18 the importance of the organisation monitoring and obtaining an assessment of the impact the waste has on the environment
- K19 the current national legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols which affect your work practice
- K20 the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and

SFHCHS212

Disposal of clinical and non clinical waste within healthcare

others

SFHCHS212

Disposal of clinical and non clinical waste within healthcare

Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Core 3 Health, safety and security

SFHCHS212

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