



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MARYLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
BALTIMORE DIVISION  
10 NORTH GREENE STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

GEN00021.2

## *PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE SERVICE*

### **Hazardous Waste Version 2 General Procedure # GEN00021**

#### **Policy:**

The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service strives to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste to comply with Federal, State and Local disposal requirements.


#### **Purpose:**

To ensure that all hazardous wastes are properly and safely managed from its generation through handling, storage, and preparation for transportation. This policy covers the responsibilities of both the individuals generating the waste (i.e. laboratory personnel) and the Green Environmental Management System (GEMS). The GEMS Coordinator will serve as the hazardous waste coordinator and will provide information and guidance to the laboratory.

Hazardous Waste: Chemicals no longer "in use" or effluents from a process that are either ignitable, or corrosive, or reactive, or toxic.

#### **Procedure:**

1. GEMS coordinator will review the manner in which hazardous materials are used, stored, and provide designated disposal areas and containers.
2. Hazardous waste collection containers:  
GEMS coordinator provides waste collection containers. Waste collection container material must be compatible with the chemicals to be collected and appropriately size waste containers.
3. All chemical waste containers must be:
  - Properly labeled with full information and securely attached, i.e. "Hazardous Waste".
  - Closed and sealed except when adding contents
  - Liquids must be stored in secondary containment bins/trays

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4. The Laboratory Director will ensure that all employees are properly trained, that a bi-annual chemical inventory is conducted for their departments, and that Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available for all chemicals listed on the local inventory (see Attachment A).

**Waste Minimization:**

The laboratory will reduce its hazardous and chemical waste by the following methods:

1. The laboratory will order chemicals conservatively and practice acquisition constraints.
2. When acquiring new equipment, the laboratory will try to ensure process changes by getting equipment that requires smaller volumes.
3. The laboratory will redistribute or relocate any unwanted chemicals to labs that can use them.

**Attachments:**

- A. Chemical Inventory Spreadsheet

**References:**

1. Hazardous Materials and Wastes Management Plan- VAMHCS POLICY MEMORANDUM 512-001/OPS-S-004, August 2017
2. College of American Pathologists- Laboratory General Checklist, August 2016



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DATE ADOPTED	Author of Procedure/Policy	Chief of Service
10/05/2015	Karla Peralta, MT (ASCP)	Signature: Dong H. Lee M.D.

Policy/Procedure(s) Retired:		Date retired:
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Review Date	Version Number	Signature of reviewer
11/13/17	2	

**REVISION HISTORY**

Date revised	Revision #	Changes made	Signature
10/05/15	2	Added disposal procedure of hazardous and chemical waste	
11/10/17	N/A	Reformatted, updated references	

## SUMMARY OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Reviewed/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical Name	Carcinogenic/ or possibly Carcinogenic	Reproductively Toxic	Highly Toxic	Flammable	Other: Acid/Base/ Oxidizer	Required PPE: Lab Coat & Gloves, plus:	Special Spill Instructions (Health / Fire / Reactivity)
ALCOHOL PREP PADS (Isopropanol >60%)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(1/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Bactidrop Potassium Hydroxide 10%			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive	Eye Protection	(3/0/0) Spill - X - S
CaviWipes			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(2/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
ChloroPrep Solutions (Isopropanol 70%)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(1/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Coulter DxH Retic Pack-Reagent B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive	Eye Protection	(3/0/0) Spill - X - S
EcoFix				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(0/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Ethanol				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(1/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Hematology Reagent B Thiazin Stain			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(2/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Hematology Reagent C Eosin Stain			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(2/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Hematology Reagent D Aerofix Fixative			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(2/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Hydrochloric Acid			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive	Eye Protection	(3/0/1) Spill - X - S
Infinity Lithium Reagent			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive	Eye Protection	(3/0/1) Spill - X - S
Iris System Cleanser			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrosive	Eye Protection	(3/0/0) Spill - X - S
Lens Cleaner, by SP				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(0/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources
Methanol		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Eye Protection	(1/3/0) Spill - X - S Remove heat sources

**Attachment A**  
**SUMMARY OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**

Reviewed/Date \_\_\_\_\_