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| **Biohazard Waste Management** | | | | |
| **Purpose** | Laboratory personnel are required to dispose of biohazard waste in the appropriate containers. | | | |
| **Containers** | Biohazard waste (red trash) – Red containers or containers with red bags are located throughout the laboratory for disposal of biohazard waste.   * Containers for biohazard waste are marked with a red/orange biohazard symbol. * Puncture resistant containers are available for the disposal of sharps and potential sharps, e.g., applicator sticks, pipette tips, broken glass.   + Puncture proof (small) containers for needles are in place on phlebotomy carts. * Red bags placed in puncture resistant containers are used for disposal of blood or other potentially infectious materials, blood product infusion bags and tubing, waste cultures or materials used to inoculate, transfer or otherwise manipulate cultures. * Sample transport bags with a biohazard symbol are used only once and disposed in the red trash, never in regular trash containers. * The following items should not be placed into biohazard containers (utilize regular trash):   + Items that have come into contact with biohazard waste but are not soaked.   + Items that have not come into contact with biohazard waste (i.e. paper towels, nitrile gloves, plastic wrappers, paper, labels).     Dual waste – Materials contaminated with both biohazard and chemical waste are placed into dual waste containers.  Regular trash – Items which have come into contact with blood, but are not soaked, may be placed into regular trash containers.   * Urine may be disposed into the sewer system and the empty container placed in regular trash but only if all patient identifiers have been removed or defaced. | | | |
| **Disposal** | All containers are considered filled when ¾ full and then must be securely closed.   * If a container is approaching or has reached the ¾ fill line, then perform the following:   + STOP filling the container with sharps. Close the lid.   + Seek out an empty container.   + Contact the Laboratory Safety Officer or an OPS supervisor about the scenario. This allows for immediate contact with Facilities concerning the situation.   Filled containers are collected by a contracted vendor for disposal. | | | |
| **Supporting Documents** | [912.04 Waste Management](http://khan.childrensmn.org/manuals/policy/900/005314.pdf)  [HI 1.16 Storage and Disposal of Specimens](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/HIS/CytProc/184549.pdf) | | | |
| **References** | 1. CLSI. Protection of Lab Workers from Occupationally Acquired Infections; Approved Guideline – Fourth Edition. CLSI document M29-A4. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Wayne, PA; 2014. 2. Occupational Safety and Health Standards. CFR1910.1030 Bloodborne pathogens. | | | |
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| **Historical Record** | **Version** | **Written/Revised by:** | **Effective Date:** | **Summary of Revisions** |
| 1 | Carol Cram | Unknown | Initial |
|  | 2 | Kerstin Halverson | 12/26/03 |  |
|  | 3 | Carol Buhl | 05/29/15 | Reformatted to CMS.  Renumbered from 10.7.1.  Added Supporting Documents.  Added References. |
|  | 4 | Carol Buhl & Lab Safety Committee | 03/27/2019 | Added examples of potential sharps objects: applicator sticks, pipette tips, broken glass. |
|  | 5 | Andrew Fangel & Lab Safety Committee | 03/27/2020 | Added guidance about how to handle sharps containers that are approaching or have reached the fill line. |
|  | 6 | Andrew Fangel & Lab Safety Committee | 03/27/2022 | Added direction on items that do not belong in a biohazard trash container. |