



Waste Management Clinical – Student Version

Clinical


LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK



**Waste Management
Clinical**



888-402-LVHN LVHN.org



1.2 Introduction


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Waste Management Clinical Course Information


LVHN colleagues must ensure that municipal waste, hazardous waste and recycled materials are disposed of and/or recycled in a manner that is compliant with the requirements of the following regulatory agencies:

- PA Department of Health
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- The Joint Commission
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Occupational Safety and Health Administration

You must score an 80% or higher on the quiz to complete this course.



If you have questions, your site specific contact link is shown on the next page.
For any technical problems, please contact the Technology Support Center at 610-402-8303.



November 1, 2021

1.3 Contents

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Pharmaceutical Waste * NEW * Updated Information	Site Specific Contacts
Regulated Medical Waste	

1.4 Municipal Waste

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Municipal Waste

What is it: At LVHN we are continuously making efforts to reduce the amount of waste that we are placing into the landfills. Our recycling efforts and waste reduction efforts are all focused on environmentally sound practice.

However, there are still some items that

- Cannot be recycled, or
- Do not fall under the definition of Regulated Medical Waste.

These items are referred to as **non-regulated waste** which is also known as municipal trash, clear bag waste or municipal waste.



Navigation arrows: < and >

1.5 Recycling and Reprocessing

Recycling and Reprocessing

What is it:

Recycling is the processing of waste for reuse or the processing of used or waste material so that it can be used again, instead of being wasted. Most commingled recycle bins will be green and paper recycle bins will be blue or gray.

Reprocessing is the collection of single use items for re-sterilization and reuse through a certified vendor.

Properly sorting items for recycling and reprocessing saves the network thousands of dollars a year in waste bills!

Reach out to your site specific contact for any questions.



1.6 Regular Waste Items Placed Into a Clear Bag

Regular Waste Items Placed Into a Clear Bag

Some examples of regular waste items that are placed into a clear bag are:

Gloves and other personal protective equipment that is **NOT** visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids

Non-bloody tubing

Diapers not contaminated with blood

Foam cups
Paper cups
Food items
Plastic utensils

Tissues, napkins, paper towels

Package/wrapping materials



1.7 Regular Waste Items Placed Into a Clear Bag

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Regular Waste Items Placed Into a Clear Bag

When handling municipal waste:

- Always wear appropriate PPE
- Tie bag goose-neck style to prevent leaking
- Hold bag away from your body



1.8 Recyclable Items

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Recyclable Items*

*At most LVHN locations, you can recycle:

- Cardboard
- Bottles, cans, glass
- Plastics 1-7
- Blue wrap
- Light bulbs
- Batteries
- Scrap Metal
- Electronic waste
- Construction material



1.9 Paper Recycling Information

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Paper Recycling Information*

*At most LVHN locations, you can recycle ALL paper:

- ALL paper, including Protected Health Information (PHI), should be placed in a secure paper collection bin
- All paper gets shredded and recycled
- Paperboard, such as empty medication boxes, can go into the paper recycling



PHI on a patient label attached to plastic, such as a medication baggie or IV bag, **CANNOT** go into the paper recycling.

Always use a marker or pen to cross out the patient name before throwing the item away in the clear bag trash.



New Process



1.10 Reprocessing Items

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Reprocessing Items*

*At most LVHN locations, you can collect the below for reprocessing:

- All single use invasive instruments, **EXCEPT** syringes, needles, needle counters, and neurosurgical devices (all of those should go into the sharps container)
- Blood pressure cuffs
- Compression sleeves
- Disposable pulse oximeter sensors
- Pressure infusor bags
- Stethoscopes
- Disposable fall alarm mats
- Reach out to your site specific contact for more information



1.11 Deans of Green

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Deans of Green

What is it: The Deans of Green is LVHN's network-wide sustainability interest group. It is a voluntary group that is interested in the environment and lessening the health network's environmental footprint, making LVHN a better community partner and steward.

What do you do: The Deans of Green are the department of sustainability's eyes and ears around each site. We ask the Deans to pass along the quarterly newsletters to their area and all are welcome to our quarterly meetings (held at Cedar Crest campus, but available via remote call-in). Every colleague, whether a Dean of Green or not, is welcome to share their ideas on improving campus sustainability with the group to help lessen the network's environmental burden.

How do you join: Contact Katherine Velekei, Katherine.Velekei@lvhn.org to become a Dean of Green for your area.

More than one Dean per area is welcome!



1.12 Sharps

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Sharps

What is it: Sharps are defined as needles, syringes, scalpel blades, broken ampoules, tweezers, scissors, razors, etc. Anything in a hospital or clinic which has been used on patients, and which may be contaminated with infectious material, and is able to puncture through a bag should be discarded into special containers for disposal without any risk to disposal personnel.

Please note: In Pennsylvania, a syringe *with or without* a needle is considered a sharp. Therefore, all syringes should go in the sharps container, including oral syringes.

Sharps are placed into rigid puncture proof containers. To reduce the risk of a needle stick injury from an over-filled container, sharps containers should be emptied when they are three quarters full! Containers may vary by site.

Disposable sharps containers should be properly closed and locked before being placed in the correct box. Do not dispose of reusable containers.



1.13 Site Specific Contacts

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Site Specific Contacts

For site specific information or questions...

LVH-17th Street Cedar Crest Health Centers Muhlenberg Tilghman	Katherine Velekei	Katherine.Velekei@lvhn.org
LVH-Coordinated Health	Steve Couch	Steve.Couch@lvhn.org
LVH-Hazleton	Zozett Brandy	Zozett.Bandy@lvhn.org
LVH-Pocono	Alexander Vasquez	Alexander.Vasquez@mhn.org
LVH-Schuylkill	Terry Wagner	Terry.Wagner@lvhn.org

1.14 Chemotherapeutic

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Chemotherapeutic Waste

What is it: Chemotherapy waste is waste that is generated from chemotherapy operations and procedures. Trace chemotherapeutic waste is to be placed into a disposal box lined with a yellow bag with a CHEMO caution label. The box is sealed and disposed of by incineration. To avoid expensive cost to the network, only chemotherapy waste should be placed in these containers. Reach out to your site contact for any site-specific questions (below).

Please note: Chemotherapeutic waste that has at least 1 mL or 1 cc left in bag, tube, syringe, etc. should be disposed of in a black bulk chemotherapeutic waste container. Items with less than that amount should be disposed of in the yellow trace chemotherapeutic waste container.

Trace chemotherapy sharps should be disposed of in a rigid yellow trace chemotherapeutic waste container.

1.15 Containerized

Containerized Waste (Gray Bin)

What is it: Containerized waste includes suction canisters, wound vac container/canister, pleurovacs, hemovacs, etc. Containerized waste can NOT be autoclaved onsite. These items are double red bagged and placed in a rigid gray biohazard container. Reach out to your site contact for site-specific questions (below).

- Always use proper PPE when handling waste and wash hands frequently.
Do not hold bag close to your body
- Containerized waste should be placed in a red bag and tied goose-neck style to prevent leaking
- The bag should be placed into a red bag lined rigid container
- General Services will change out the rigid container
- No other waste should be placed in the containers to minimize costs



1.16 Containerized

What Goes in the Rigid (GRAY) Container



Pleurovac



Hemovac



Woundvac
Canister



Regular Suction
Canister



Heart & Lung Machine -
TUBING and Canister Mechanisms



Red bag is tied,
goose-neck style.



Clinical Services staff transports
red bag waste to the Soiled Utility
Room and places into a rigid (gray)
container with a red bag liner.

General Services transports
to loading dock.



1.17 Pathological

Pathological Waste

What is it: Pathological waste is defined as all human or animal anatomical wastes including human tissues, organs, or body parts removed by trauma, during surgery, autopsy, studies, or another hospital procedure, which is intended for disposal.

Pathological waste is collected and at times sent to the lab for testing.

Where does that waste go after testing?



1.18 Pathological

Pathological Waste

All pathological waste must be incinerated before being sent to a landfill.

So the process is as follows;

- Pathological waste cardboard boxes are obtained from the General Services/EVS department
- The box is then opened and lined with a red bag.
- The waste is then placed into the box, tied and the box is closed and sealed with clear packing tape.
- Specific transportation labels must be placed in designated areas on the box.
- Our contracted regulated medical waste hauler will pick up the boxes to be transported to an off-site processing facility for incineration.
- Each box is labeled and the handling, transportation and disposal is carefully tracked through a waste manifest.



1.19 Pharmaceutical

Pharmaceutical Waste

What is it: Environment Protection Agency (EPA), State Environmental Agencies (DEP), Department of Transportation (DOT), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), The Joint Commission (TJC) are all instrumental in the regulation of proper disposal of Pharmaceutical waste. Reach out to your site contact for site-specific questions.

Pharmaceutical waste is LEFTOVER or UNUSED medication in:

- Vials
- IV bags, bottles and tubing
- Syringes, ampoules
- Oral medications
- Ointments and Creams
- Physician Samples



1.20 Pharmaceutical

Pharmaceutical Waste

EMPTY items (less than 3% of original volume), should be disposed of accordingly, NOT including controlled substances. This definition of empty does NOT include controlled substances or narcotics (as much as possible must be emptied from those vessels before disposal).

Medication boxes that tear WHITE can be recycling with other paper.



Any patient label on an IV bag or medication box needs to have the patient's name removed/crossed out before disposal.



Always use a marker or pen to cross out the patient name before throwing the item away in the clear bag trash.



1.21 Pharmaceutical

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Pharmaceutical Waste

Any sharps with leftover medication, including oral syringes, do NOT go into the blue floor model container that is lined with a clear bag. Syringes with leftover medication go into the black (or other hard-shell pharmaceutical waste bin that may be at your site).

If you have more than one container, look on the medication label and/or MAR under 'Patient Directions For Use'. It will tell you if it goes into the black (hazardous pharmaceutical waste) container or clear (incompatible waste) container. If no bin is indicated, it goes into the blue container.



Some sites may have a white bin with a blue lid for non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste. Follow site guidelines for this bin.



1.22 Pharmaceutical

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

Controlled Substance Disposal Container

The Controlled Substance Disposal Container will be close to every medication dispensing unit or anesthesia cart for secure disposal and neutralization of controlled substances and narcotics in all forms (liquid, pills, patches, etc).



Some sites may have a Cactus Sink for disposal of controlled substances/narcotics. Follow site guidelines for this bin.



1.23 Pharmaceutical

Controlled Substance Disposal Container

As much of the medication needs to be emptied out of its vessel (IV bag, syringe, vial, etc) as possible before the vessel can be disposed of as usual.

LVHN has decided to collect Propofol as a controlled substance.

- **Inside of procedure areas**, Propofol can go into the same container (no water added).
- **Outside of procedure areas**, your unit will have a labeled 'Propofol Only' container if needed.
 - If propofol is added to a non-propofol container, contact General Services/EVS as soon as possible for a replacement.

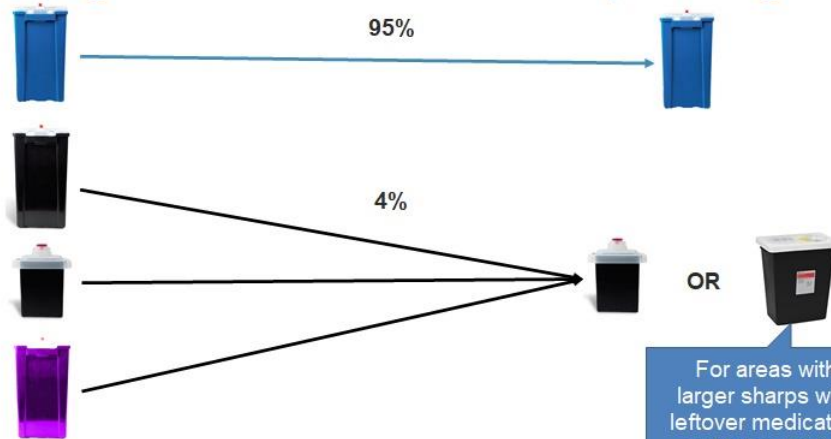


1.25 Pharmaceutical

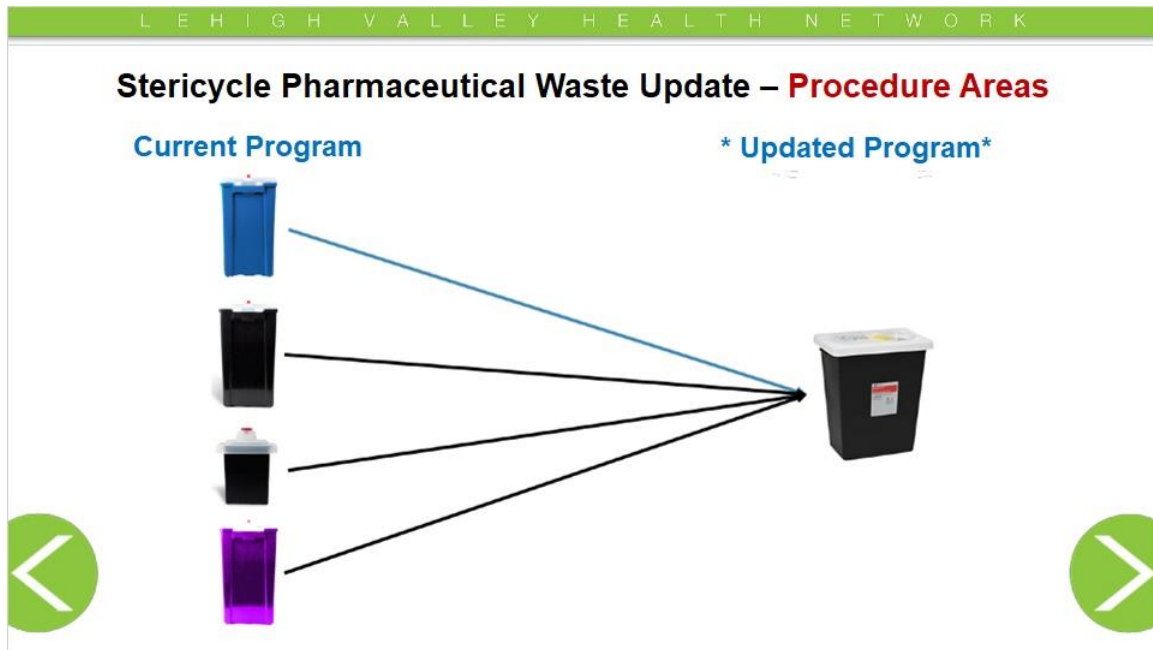
Stericycle Pharmaceutical Waste Update – Non-Procedure Areas

Current Program

* Updated Program*



1.26 Pharmaceutical



1.27 Handle Red Bag Waste

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Regulated Medical Waste (RMW)

Also known as red bag waste.

What is it: Red bag waste means liquid or semi-liquid blood, Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM), caked with dry blood, micro-wastes containing blood, contaminated.


For example, a patient has blood drawn and the nurse puts a Band-Aid on their arm. That Band-Aid gets a drop of blood on it. Is this RMW? No.

A woman in a black suit is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the left with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting on her chin. A blue speech bubble points to her, containing the text: "For example, a patient has blood drawn and the nurse puts a Band-Aid on their arm. That Band-Aid gets a drop of blood on it. Is this RMW? No." Green navigation arrows are on the left and right sides of the slide.

1.28 RedBagWaste-1

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Is this Regulated Medical Waste?



However, if a patient came in and had a large wound and the gauze got saturated. Is this RMW? **Yes**

What if, for whatever reason, the gauze that was dripping and saturated with blood gets dried, so it is no longer dripping. Is this RMW? **Yes.**

If it was saturated, when it dries, it could flake off and potentially infect someone.



1.29 Handle Red Bag Waste



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Red Bag Waste

It is true that bloodborne pathogens, the hazard inherent in RMW, is most easily transmittable in liquid form, but it can be spread in other ways. Such as a crack in dry skin. Also, if the dried saturated bandage is included in the regular trash, other trash items that contain liquid such as a soda container may reconstitute the blood and make it liquid again.

Feces and Urine are not included in red bag waste.







Red bag waste is ten times more expensive to dispose of than municipal waste. Only put the correct items in the red bag. If there is a red step on can in the patient room, place saturated items in the can. If there is not a can in the patient room, grab a red bag from supply to put the saturated items in to transport to the red can in the soiled utility room.





1.30 Handle Red Bag Waste

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

What goes into Regulated Medical Waste (Red Bag)?

 <i>Visibly contaminated PPE and Tubing</i>	 <i>Visibly contaminated Foley Catheters</i>
 Specimen Bags and Bags with a Biohazard Symbol	 Blood soaked blue underpads/diapers
 Blood or Hemodialysis Products	 Blood soaked dressings


Room Does Not Have a Red Step-on Container



Clinical Services staff transports red bag waste to the Soiled Utility Room and places into a red step-on container.

Red bag is tied, goose-neck style.

Room Does Have a Red Step-on Container



Room does have a red step-on container, put the waste directly into the red step-on can (no extra bag or tying).


1.31 Handle Red Bag Waste

L E H I G H V A L L E Y H E A L T H N E T W O R K

How to Handle Red Bag Waste

How to handle it:

- Always wear gloves when handling red bag waste
- Wash hands frequently
- Hold bag away from your body
- Tie bag in a goose-neck style knot
- Only put bag in designated container
- Ask questions when you are unsure



Red bag waste is tied, goose-neck style.

For site specific information/questions visit the **Site Specific Contacts** tab.

1.32 Sharps Container

What goes in the Sharps Container

The diagram shows a central white sharps container with a red funnel on top. Yellow arrows point from various categories of sharps towards the container. The categories are:

- Glass specimen containers
- Scalpels
- All syringes, oral and with needles
- Used/Unused blood draw tubes
- Scissors
- Needles of any kind
- Tweezers
- Broken ampoules
- Urine specimen lids

Urine specimen lids
Fit into the square-top floor sharps. DO NOT FORCE the lids into the funnel-top containers