Welcome to the on-line training course for Waste Management!
The course will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have questions about this course, please contact the Subject Matter Expert listed on this screen. If you have any technical problems or questions, please contact the help desk at 610-402-8303. This course does not contain audio narration, please review the notes tab for more course information. To review the navigational features of the course, click on the Navigation tab at the top of the screen.
Welcome to the on-line training course for Waste Management!
Lehigh Valley Health Network is committed to protecting and improving the environment. This is done by ensuring 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
- U.S. OSHA

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By the end of this course, you will be able to recognize how to properly segregate solid waste into the proper waste streams, select the appropriate procedures and engineering controls when disposing of waste materials, and identify the proper protocols to follow when autoclave technology is utilized.

If you feel you have already mastered the content described in the course objectives and would like to demonstrate your knowledge, you may click the “Demonstrate Knowledge” button and move directly to the course test. You must earn a score of at least 80% on the test to successfully pass this course.

However, it is suggested that you review the content as it has been updated. To continue onto the course content, please select the next button located at the bottom of the screen.
Let’s start with Regulated Medical Waste or RMW, also known as red bag waste, bio-hazardous waste or infectious waste.

RMW is defined as all wastes from hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities that contain or have come into contact with diseased tissues or infectious microorganisms.

Infectious waste, which is hazardous waste with infectious characteristics, also includes the following: Pathological Waste, Chemotherapeutic Waste, and Sharps.
Regulated medical waste is collected in a step-on red container lined with a red bag. These containers should be in all patient rooms, exam rooms and treatment rooms. Sizes vary from eight gallons to eighteen gallons depending on volume and service.
Click on each regulated medical waste item to learn more about what goes in the red step-on container.

1) Items saturated with Blood or Body Fluid including PPE
2) Tubing
3) Foley Catheter & Bag
4) Blood or Hemodialysis Products
5) Specimen Containers (NO GLASS)
6) Diapers
   - (Adult or Infant) Only if infected with a known infectious organism or are saturated with blood
What items belong in an infectious waste bag or red bag? Drag and drop all items that DO belong in an infectious bag to the red step-on container and click Submit to check your answer. You may also view why other things don’t belong in this container by clicking on the Feedback button.

Why other items don’t belong:

- Patient information is shredded and recycled; this will go into the Blue Recycling Container
- Needles are considered sharp, therefore would be placed into the sharps container
- Glass bottles depend on if it is a bottle you drink from then it goes into the Green container, if it is a medication bottle or any other glass bottle then it would go into the designated sharps container
- All syringes including oral and needle syringes are to go into the sharps container regardless if it has been used or not
Click each tab below to learn more on the Do's and Don'ts of RMW Handling Procedures.

**Do's**
- Practice standard precautions by:
  - Wearing Gloves
  - Wearing Goggles
  - Washing hands frequently
  - Asking questions when you are unsure
  - Keep bags away from your body
  - Always place the bag in the red waste container only

**Don'ts**
- NEVER handle waste without the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- NEVER push down on a bag or force waste into a bag
- NEVER commingle your waste with other waste streams
- NEVER place the bagged regulated medical waste onto the floor
Sharps are defined as needles, 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 deemed to puncture through a bag should be discarded into special containers for disposal without any risk to disposal personnel.
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 ¾ full! Click on the sharps container to view what types of waste go in that receptacle. Once waste items are revealed, click on them to learn more.
Containerized waste includes suction canisters, pleurovacs, hemovacs, wound vats, etc. Containerized waste can NOT be autoclaved. Click each box below to learn more about the Containerized Waste Protocols process.

Containerized waste includes suction canisters, pleurovacs, hemovacs, wound vats, etc. Containerized waste can NOT be autoclaved. Click each box below to learn more about the Containerized Waste Protocols Process.
Click the Double Red Bag to view what types of waste go in that receptacle. Once waste items are revealed, click on them to learn more. Then you may view what happens next to the Double Red Bag by clicking on Feedback.

Things that can go in the Double Red Bag?

- Suction Canisters and Liners
- Hernovacs
- Heart and Lung Machine – TUBING and Canister Mechanisms
- Pleurovac
- Woundvacs

What happens next to the Double Red Bag:

All of these items go in the Double Red Bag, and then nursing brings the Double Red Bag to the Soiled Utility Room and places it into a grey container with a Red Bag liner (primary). A designated cardboard box with a Red Bag liner can be used as a backup (not shown).

Then, General Services transports the grey container or cardboard box from the Soiled Utility Room to the Loading Dock.

Close
Pathological waste is defined as all human or animal anatomical wastes including human tissues, organs, or body parts.
Autoclaved waste is defined as infectious waste or bio-hazardous waste that has been disinfected and/or sterilized.
Currently, LVH-CC and LVH-M are the only sites that use an autoclave to sterilize regulated medical waste. Waste that will be autoclaved needs to be placed in an autoclave bag. This bag has an indicator strip that shows it has been sterilized and the bag can withstand the pressure and the temperature of the autoclave unit.
Infectious waste or regulated medical waste is generated at the patient bedside, exam room, treatment room, etc.
Chemotherapy waste is waste that is generated from chemotherapy operations and procedures. 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.
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 environmental sound practice.

However, there are still some items that cannot be recycled or do not fall under the definition of RMW. These items are referred to as non-regulated waste which is also known as general trash, clear bag waste or municipal waste.
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, tissues, paper towels, package/wrapping materials, foam cups, paper cups, etc.
Click each tab below to learn more on the Do's and Don'ts of Non-Regulated Waste Handling Procedures.

**Do's**
- Always wear the appropriate PPE (gloves, goggles, mask, etc.)
- Always tie the bag using the "Rabbit Ear" Method (tie two ends of the bag and tie the two ends together)
- Always keep the bag away from your body
- Always be aware of your surroundings

**Don'ts**
- NEVER pull trash without the appropriate PPE
- NEVER commingle your waste streams. When collecting regular trash there should only be clear bags on your container
- NEVER place trash bags on the floor. If you are collecting trash you should place the trash into a Steel/Brute Shale Container
- NEVER place different varieties of bags over your collection container, for example if you are collecting trash you should only have clear bags on your collection container
LVHN has designed a color coded waste management system to help us easily identify the proper waste receptacles and have consistent procedures for managing regulated medical waste and recycling efforts throughout our organization. Click each color-coded waste receptacle below to learn more about what waste is collected in each.
Recycling is the processing of waste for reuse—the processing of used or waste material so that it can be used again, instead of being wasted.

At Lehigh Valley Health Network we recycle:

- Cardboard
- Office paper
- Protective Health Information (PHI)
- Light bulbs
- Bottles/Cans/Glass
- Batteries
- Computers, Monitors and TV's
- Metals
- Construction Materials
Click each waste receptacle below to learn more about what waste is collected in each.
What types of items go into the paper/PHI waste container? Click on the items below to select your answer or answers.
What types of items go into the commingled waste container? Click on the items below to select your answer or answers.
You are responsible for managing your own waste.
• Everyone is responsible for separating waste and placing it into the proper container.
• All regulated medical waste, including sharps is disposed of in its appropriate receptacles.
• Always recycle when possible!
• Properly segregating waste streams at the source point saves LVHN on waste disposal costs and ensures that we are compliant with all federal and state waste regulations.
• If you do not have the required receptacles in your area, please call the Safety Department at 610-969-4487 or you may contact General Services at (CC) 610-402-8566 / (17th) 610-969-2220 / (muh) 484-884-2293.
Congratulations! You have now completed Lehigh Valley Health Network’s course on Waste Management.

You should now know how to:

• Recognize how to properly segregate solid waste into the proper waste streams
• Select the appropriate procedures and engineering controls when disposing of waste materials
• Identify the proper protocols to follow when autoclave technology is utilized

Please proceed to the Waste Management Quiz to test your knowledge. Answer the following questions as best as you can. In order to pass this course, you must earn at least 80% on the test.

Good luck!