
Guidelines for the Handling and Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste

Regulated Medical Waste generated at the University must be handled and disposed of in a safe manner consistent with federal and state guidelines.

Waste generated at biosafety levels 2 and 3 is regarded as regulated medical waste (RMW). New York State generally defines RMW as a waste that is capable of transmitting disease to humans (please refer to the categories below). This waste is further defined as that generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in production and testing of biologicals. Additionally, regulated medical waste cannot contain any hazardous chemical or radioactive waste components. The biological component must first be decontaminated. The decontaminated waste is then treated as chemical or radioactive waste.

Categories of Regulated Medical Waste (for additional clarification of waste categories please call the Biosafety Officer).

1.) Cultures and Stocks of Infectious Agents

- Cultures from medical, pathological, or research laboratories
- Wastes from the production of biologicals (products made from living organisms, e.g., serums, antigens, antitoxins, etc.)
- Discarded live or attenuated vaccines
- Culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate or mix cultures
- Human and nonhuman primate cell lines and tissue cultures
- All mammalian cell lines **except**
 - Primary animal cell cultures, with a complete history, which have never been in contact with human blood or blood products and only nourished with filtered or irradiated animal serum products, and not displaying signs of toxicity can be considered pure and do not need to be disposed of as RMW. The history must be included as part of the written record and filed with the biosafety officer.

2.) Human Pathological Wastes

- Tissues, organs, body parts, body fluids and containers, and discarded material saturated with such body fluids

3.) Human Blood and Blood Products

- Discarded waste human blood, blood components (e.g., serum and plasma)
- Materials saturated with blood or blood components

4.) Sharps

- Discarded unused or used sharps utilized in animal or human patient care or employed in research laboratories including hypodermic, intravenous, or other medical needles
- Hypodermic syringes with attached needles, Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, or blood vials
- Plastic micropipette tips, serological pipettes, broken or unbroken glass including slides and cover slips, glass culture tubes, flasks, beakers, etc. that have come in contact with infectious agents

5.) Animal Wastes

- Discarded materials including carcasses, body parts, body fluids, blood, or bedding from animals known to be contaminated with infectious agents

Regulated Medical Waste MUST be handled in the following manner:

- Culture and pathological wastes should be **contained** in red biohazard bags (double bag if necessary) and **autoclaved**. Sharp materials should be discarded in appropriate sharps containers. Liquid waste can be treated with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach for 20 minutes (or alternatively autoclaved) and discarded into the sanitary sewer.
- Biohazardous waste must not be mixed with chemical or radioactive waste, or with other laboratory trash.
- Biohazard bags or sharps containers must be labeled with the generator's name and campus location. Please **do not** overfull sharps containers. Red bags and sharps containers may be purchased from Science Stores or from another vendor.
- Properly labeled biohazard bags or sharps containers must be delivered to Science III, B27A for secondary packaging and disposal. Red bags must always be transported in a rigid, labeled biohazard container with a close fitting lid. The University contracts with a licensed regulated medical waste hauler for transportation of BMW.

Cultures and stocks which are **not** RMW should still be decontaminated prior to disposal in the regular trash.

Contact Numbers:

Robert Snyder	RMW Manager	7-4905
Kelly Donovan	Biosafety Officer	7-6834
Laboratory Safety Products		1-800-356-0783

www.labsafety.com (vendor for red bags, biohazard containers, signs/labels)