

Waste Generator Responsibilities

SITA-MediCollect are actively involved in the ongoing development of the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group (ANZCWMIG 2007) now the 'Biohazard Waste Industry' (BWI 2009). The following are guidelines for responsible waste management practices pertinent to all Generators of Biohazard (clinical and related) Wastes.

BWI recommends that all Generators of these wastes are informed and observant of the following:

1.
it is the responsibility of institutional administrators to be aware of all legal liability and ethical accountability issues relating to the production, handling and disposal of clinical and related wastes, cradle to grave responsibility;
2.
generators to develop and implement waste management plans to assist them to minimise waste through improved purchasing and reuse practices and to achieve cost effective, environmentally sound source segregation, collection, transport and treatment/disposal of all waste streams generated through their facilities;
3.
institutional administrators to ensure all relevant Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures are pertinent and effectual and facilitate both waste segregation and minimisation procedures without compromising patient/client care;
4.
Ensure all employees are aware of and made accountable for their individual responsibilities in relation to waste management and to provide appropriate education and training in conjunction with a system of audits and reviews to ensure correct policies are adhered to;
5.
Implement all possible measures to reduce the risk of injury to health care workers (staff or contract), waste industry employees and the community;
6.
Ensure that all relevant measures be taken to reduce environmental risks (all collection, treatment and disposal practices must be managed in an environmentally acceptable manner to prevent contamination of ground water, surface water, storm water, soil and air);
7.
Ensure an adequate supply of bins in all storage areas (eg. ensuring correct colour and other identification marks) for the amount(s) of waste generated;
8.
Nominate an individual responsible for coordination of all waste management activities; and develop and implement a bio hazard (clinical and related) waste training program for all staff who may generate or handle any bio hazard (clinical and related) wastes; and
9.
Conduct regular audits of contractor's equipment and premises to ensure that wastes are managed in accordance with all legal and contractual requirements." (reference: BWI 2009)