

## WASTES THAT CAN BE TREATED BY SITA-MEDICOLLECT

### Biohazard / Clinical & Related Waste

“Waste which has the potential to cause injury, infection, offence, and includes sharps, human tissue waste laboratory waste, animal waste resulting from medical, dental or veterinary research or treatment and the potential to cause disease: or any other waste arising from any source, as specified by the establishment.

Related wastes are defined as wastes within the medical waste stream which constitute, or are contaminated with cytotoxic drugs, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and sharps [WA]” (reference: BWI 2009)

Definitions include: any waste contaminated with human or animal matter originating from any patient care area, surgery, health or transport facility and any autopsy, surgical, pathological, dental and veterinary or laboratory procedure. It includes bone and other tissue, swabs, bandages, blood samples and disposable surgical hard ware. Also including plate scrapings, used paper products and all other waste materials generated by patient care. (reference: BWI 2009)

### Sharps

can pierce the skin and have the potential to cause infection. Double handling of sharps should be avoided. MediCollect recommends use of disposable collectors meeting Australian Standards. The collectors are for disposal by incineration with minimal impact on the environment. Sharps collectors are colour coded yellow, the principal colour used for medical waste disposal. They have infectious waste labelling and display the universal biohazard symbol. The collectors are safe for all to handle and the whole collector with waste enclosed is completely destroyed by high temperature incineration, effectively eliminating any repercussions from the potential hazards of double handling or land filling of this type of waste.

**Sharps contain pharmaceutical residues and must be incinerated in Western Australia.**

### Pharmaceuticals

(drug, remedy or medicinal substances) or any other substance specified in the poisons list under the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1996. Pharmaceutical waste, including cytotoxins, may arise from expired or discarded pharmaceuticals, those no longer required by patients or departments and waste materials or substances generated during the manufacture and administration of pharmaceuticals. (reference: BWI 2009)

**All pharmaceuticals must be destroyed by incineration.** Clinical waste bins with a high proportion of pharmaceuticals may be charged at the current rate for destruction of pharmaceuticals and sharps.

### Cytotoxic

substances are destructive to cells and should be handled with care at all times and managed accordingly. Cytotoxic waste means materials or drugs which are carcinogenic, cytostatic, cytotoxic, mutagenic and /or teratogenic as well as materials associated with the administration of cytotoxins such as needles, syringes, intravenous appliances, ampoules, vials, gauzes, caps, gloves and swabs.

**Cytotoxic waste must be stored in purple cytotoxic containers and incinerated.** All waste contained in SITA-MediCollect cytotoxic bins is incinerated and completely destroyed therefore sealed containers may be placed inside the 240L bin. (reference: BWI 2009)

### Documents

and patient records may be placed in the bin with clinical waste in small quantities however for larger quantities it would be more cost effective to use a Document waste bin.

**Radioactive materials are not accepted by SITA-MediCollect.**

For further information contact the Health Department of Western Australia..... Radiation – (Health & Safety)