

Medical waste

Medical waste, also known as **clinical waste**, normally refers to waste products that cannot be considered general waste, produced from healthcare premises, such as hospitals, clinics, doctors offices, labs and nursing homes.

Europe

In Europe, wastes are defined by their European Waste Catalogue (EWC) Codes. EWC Codes are 6 digits long, with the first two digits defining the over-arching category of waste, the next two defining the sub-category, and the last two defining the precise waste stream. Clinical waste comes under the "18" codes, for example: "18 01 01" corresponds to healthcare waste (18), from humans (01), that is sharp and not infectious (01).

United Kingdom

In the UK, clinical waste and the way it is to be handled is closely regulated.^[1] . See NetRegs Current legislation lists ^[2].

United States

In 1988 the Federal government passed The Medical Waste Tracking Act which set the standards for governmental regulation of medical waste. After the repeal of the act, States were given the responsibility to regulate and pass laws concerning the disposal of medical waste. All fifty states vary in their regulations from no regulations to very strict.

Disposal of this waste is an environmental concern, as many medical wastes are classified as *infectious* or *biohazardous* and could potentially lead to the spread of infectious disease. Examples of infectious waste include blood, potentially contaminated "sharps" such as needles and scalpels, and identifiable body parts. Sharps include used needles, lancets, and other devices capable of penetrating skin. Infectious waste is often incinerated. The most common method of sterilization is an autoclave . The autoclave uses steam and pressure to sterilize the waste. The preferred method for body parts is incineration. Additionally, medical facilities produce a variety of waste hazardous chemicals, including radioactive materials. While such wastes are normally not infectious, they may be classified as hazardous wastes, and require proper disposal.



See also

- Eco-friendly dentistry
- Scavenger system

External links

- www.indmedica.com/journals ^[3]
- Medical waste ^[4] at the Open Directory Project

References

[1] <http://www.medical.initial.co.uk/regulations/index.php>

[2] http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/legislation/287972/?lang=_e

[3] <http://www.indmedica.com/journals.php?journalid=11&issueid=98&articleid=1324&action=article>

[4] http://www.dmoz.org/Business/Energy_and_Environment/Waste_Management/Biohazardous_Materials/Medical_Waste/

Article Sources and Contributors

Medical waste *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=345096345> *Contributors:* Andrea Parton, Bentonjl, Bhargavanshul, CommonsDelinker, Debresser, Doc9871, Fraggle81, Garyilliam, Gogo Dodo, Iridescent, Jusdafax, La goutte de pluie, Link Spam Remover, Lou Sander, Nay Nay Binosis, Orsd, Otduff, Philip Trueman, Remi0o, Rthatcher, Sarindam7, Smlbstcbr, Surv1v411st, The cattr, Transcona Slim, Vegaswikian, Versus22, Vortexrealm, Wavelength, Whateva87, Why Not A Duck, Windharp, Wsonnier, おむこさん志望, 24 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

Image:Star of life2.svg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Star_of_life2.svg *License:* Attribution *Contributors:* User:Verdy p

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>
