

<b>Best Practice Guideline</b>	<b>Management of Waste</b>
<b>Date</b>	April 26, 2024
<b>Reviewed Date</b>	
<b>Revised Date</b>	

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## Site Applicability

All Vancouver Coastal Health Owned, Operated and Contracted Long-term Care Facilities (LTCFs)

## Scope of Practice

All VCH owned, operated and contracted sites:

- Care Staff
- Environmental Services and other Support Staff
- Facility Leadership

## Purpose

To outline proper handling, containment, transport and disposal of waste.

## Background

Waste can be a source of infection. Anyone who is responsible for handling waste should understand the steps required for waste management in preventing transmission of infections.

## Management of Waste

- Identify waste class and container according to [Daniel’s Biomedical Waste Segregation](#)
- Staff to perform a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) to identify Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to prevent self-contamination when handling waste.
- When transporting garbage bags from resident area to the garbage holding area on the unit, hold the bag away from your clothes.
- Remove PPE and clean hands following touching garbage bags.
- Transport waste off the unit in a dedicated container
- Clean and disinfect touchpoints of container.

## Management and Disposal of Blood and Body Fluids

- Identify waste class and container according to [Daniel’s Biomedical Waste Segregation](#).



- Staff to perform a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) to identify Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required when handling blood and body fluids.
- Cover/contain during transport to prevent splashes to soiled utility room. During transportation, hold the contained item (i.e., urinal, bedpan, and urine hat) away from your clothes.
- Dispose of body fluids into a washer disinfectant or macerator. In the absence of a washer disinfectant or macerator, use [disposable hygienic products](#) (or if resident on additional precautions)
  - Waste is not to be emptied into a hopper or toilet.
- Bag incontinence products in a plastic bag at the point of care

## Management and Disposal of Sharps

Dispose all sharps, (e.g., needles, scalpel blades, broken glass) into an approved sharps disposal container.

- Sharps are to be placed in an approved sharps disposal container at point of use, some sites may choose to house the sharps container on the medication cart.
- Sharps disposal containers should be wall or surface mounted and secured.
- Sharps containers should be closed when 2/3 full, removed and replaced.
- Place full, closed sharps container in identified storage area for pick up.
- DO NOT place sharps into general waste disposal bags.

## Management of Pharmaceutical Waste

Pharmaceutical waste is any unused or partially used drugs and medicines that are expired, contaminated, stored improperly, or no longer required.

- Use white, single use containers with an Rx symbol Liners.
- Do not place container directly next to recycling containers, store in a secure area.
- Unit staff must seal shut pharmaceutical containers prior to housekeeping removal.

## Management, Collection and Removal of Waste Materials for Recycling

Mixed container recycling includes hard containers made of plastic, tin, aluminum, glass, or Tetra Pak, including both those eligible and not eligible for a refund and must be empty, rinsed, and with the cap off.

- Use blue, reusable bin with a “Mixed Containers” label lined with a clear or transparent bag.
- Place next to or close by a garbage container and do not place next to biomedical waste containers.



Mixed paper recycling for non-confidential paper products, such as newspapers, brochures, tissue boxes, and glove boxes.

- Flatten corrugated cardboard and place beside or behind a recycling container for housekeeping to collect.
- Use blue, reusable bin with a “Mixed Paper” label lined with a clear or transparent bag.
- Place next to or close by a garbage container and do not place next to biomedical waste containers.

Refundable beverage recycling includes plastic, aluminum, glass, and Tetra Pak beverage containers that are eligible for refund.

- Containers must be empty, rinsed, and with the cap off.
- Use blue, reusable bin with a “Refundable Beverage Containers” label lined with a clear or transparent bag.

## Education

Health care workers should provide education to residents and families/visitors on hand hygiene and proper use of personal protective equipment when managing waste.

Recommended Education for Staff:

<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/9114/waste-management-basics-learning-module-online>  
<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Learner/MyCourse>  
<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Learner/MyCourse>

## Resources

[Waste Management Training Resource](#)  
[VCH IPAC Website Waste Management](#)  
[Blood and Body Fluid Spill Response](#)  
[Handling Medical Sharps to Avoid BBF Exposure](#)  
[Sharps Safety Program.pdf \(vch.ca\)](#)

## References

1. Waste Management – Methods of Disposal. (2007)
2. Public Health Agency of Canada. (2013). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infections in Health Care Settings.
3. Provincial Infection Control Network, B.C. (2016). B.C. Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning

