

THE DISPOSAL OF HEALTHCARE WASTE BY NHS GRAMPYAN FROM COMMUNITY PHARMACIES



Guidance on the arrangements for the Collection and Disposal of Healthcare Waste

NHS Grampian provides a range of healthcare waste disposal services for the collection and disposal of the various clinical and special wastes that may arise from providing healthcare within the premises, from expired stock or from individuals (e.g. the general public, or patients receiving care). This is based on the legal and licensing requirements of the Environmental Protection Act: 1990 etc. The wastes require to be source segregated in accordance with NHS Grampian waste segregation policy, to ensure that they can be safely treated or disposed at facilities particular to the type of waste.

(For clarity see the latest NHSG segregation chart and the NHS Grampian Waste Management Procedures guide).

NHS Grampian will provide specific containers for the wastes.

All healthcare waste containers (bags and bins) must identify the source location of the waste. For bags these should carry an identification tag which will be issued at the start of the service. For bins, the pre-printed label must be completed. As the producer of the waste, **YOU** have a legal Duty of Care to segregate, store and describe the waste in the correct manner:

- Empty and full waste containers must be stored separately.
- Containers must be filled to the appropriate level before they are presented for collection.
- Full containers must remain secure at all times and must be stored in a delineated manner in the distinct waste stream, in accordance with the NHS Grampian waste segregation policy.

To clarify, the arrangements are subject to the following summary duties and procedures and these should be reflected in the local Health and Safety Policy for the premises:

Low Risk Clinical Waste from providing healthcare within the premises (*such as dressings, swabs and disposables etc*);

- Place carefully but directly into the **Orange Stream** waste bag provided.
- Apply the Universal Blood & Body Fluid Precautions.
- Wash hands immediately afterwards if disposable gloves have not been used.
- Once full seal with the tags provided using a swan neck procedure

Used Sharps – as Low Risk Clinical Waste from individuals (*needles / syringes etc*);

- Ideally let the person concerned place carefully but directly into the **Orange Stream** waste bin provided.
- If this is not possible, use a tray or similar flat object for transition.
- Be careful to avoid sharp or broken parts and needle stick incidents.
- Ensure that sharps are not forced into the container.
- Apply the Universal Blood & Body Fluid Precautions.
- Wash hands immediately afterwards if disposable gloves have not been used.
- Ensure any liquids are leak proofed.

Label and store sealed returned Patient diabetic waste bins (1L yellow, **orange lidded** bins) in an appropriate place awaiting uplift. Pharmacies should ensure they hold sufficient in stock to enable patients to get a new bin when required.

Unwanted Medicines – as Special Waste (*from individuals or expired stock*);

- Place into the 22.0 litre **Blue lidded** yellow stream Medicinal Products waste bin container provided.
- Render irretrievable as appropriate any controlled drugs in accordance with NHS Grampian Medicines Directorate instructions on Misuse of Drugs Regulations.
- Ensure any liquids are leak proofed
- Empty Methadone bottles should **not** be rinsed out, and should be placed into the blue stream containers.

Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Wastes – as Special Waste;

- Place into 11.5 litre **Purple lidded** Yellow Stream Cytotoxic and Cytostatic waste bin container, which can be provided separately, as and when required.
- Please also refer to the NHS Grampian – Pharmacy Guidelines for the Safe Use of Cytotoxic Chemotherapy.

Injecting Equipment Provision (*where participating*) – **as Special Waste;**

- Place sealed, returned injecting equipment units into a 60.0 litre **Yellow Stream** Waste Bin container provided.
- When full, complete the label – “Injecting Equipment Provision Service” and “EWC 18-01-08/09” as appropriate.
- Please also refer to the NHS Grampian – Pharmacy Medicines Unit – Contractual Terms and Conditions.

Medicine Wastes from Pharmaceutical Care Services and Associated Campaigns *(from services provided - such as Travel Immunisation Service, Flu or other Vaccine campaigns and including part filled syringes and vials) – as Special Waste;*

- Place into the **Blue Lidded** Yellow Stream medicinal products waste bin container provided.
- Ensure any liquids are leak proofed.
- For Vaccines please also refer to the NHS Grampian – Pharmacy Medicines Unit Vaccine Handling Procedures.

Labelling on containers

It is the responsibility of the person filling or holding the bin prior to collection to label them correctly. Labelling allows the source of the waste to be identified and also, in conjunction with the bin and lid colour, directs the route the waste must take to complete the disposal process. The labels are self explanatory and easy to complete – the standard wording for labels are given on the segregation guide.

Disposal processes

The processes for completing the disposal process are very different for different products and have different costs associated with them. It is therefore essential that waste is placed in the correct containers with the correct lids and is labelled in the correct way to ensure NHS Grampian does not incur costs for processing waste inappropriately.

Yellow Stream – all wastes disposed of via this stream are treated in a specialist incinerator at very high temperatures of around 1200^oc, with purple lidded wastes treated at slightly higher temperature than blue lidded. The remains from the process are then disposed of in a specialist landfill site.

Orange stream – all waste disposed of via this stream is firstly shredded in a macerator into unrecognisable flock before being sterilised by high heat and steam treatment at 130^oc in an autoclave. Following this the waste is disposed of in a specialist landfill site.

Collection of waste by NHS Grampian

On scheduled collection day, pharmacy contractors must present the waste to the driver. The driver is **not** responsible for retrieving waste from the storage area in which it is kept.

The driver collecting waste will provide the contractor with a consignment note which the contractor **MUST** by law retain for a minimum of 3 years.

Points to be aware of:

- Unless the Community Pharmacy has a valid waste management exemption from SEPA, wastes from commerce and business should **not** normally be accepted, as these will be dealt with separately. NHS Grampian can provide help on uplift services directly with organisations concerned.
- These arrangements do not include the disposal of any Special Wastes that are not Medicinal Products (such as mercury from broken sphygmometers, pesticides, chemicals or Ni-Cad batteries etc). NHS Grampian can provide this service, if required, under separate arrangements.
- The arrangements do not include for the disposal of Sanitary Products or other Offensive Human Hygiene Wastes (such as sanitary towels or nappies arising from staff or the public). However such waste, if not arising from healthcare, should be disposed of in the normal "Household" Black Bag route.
- Human Hygiene Offensive Wastes (such as Urine and Faeces from patients) where there is no degree of clinical suspicion of infectiousness or contamination – should be discharged to drain in the normal manner.
- Household / Domestic Waste (Black Stream) – take simple steps to avoid it becoming contaminated and having to be disposed as Clinical Waste.
- Label backing paper and cardboard Pharmaceutical packaging should be recycled wherever possible.

Your Duties as the Waste Producer (the Community Pharmacist);

- ✓ Use the correct waste containers (*bags and bins supplied by NHS Grampian*);
- ✓ Keep waste containers secure at all times;
- ✓ Bags should be held by ring holder at appropriate locations. A wall mounted label to determine the bag colour for the waste stream intended will avoid confusion when bags are being replaced;
- ✓ Change bags when three quarters full, and weigh no more than 4Kg; handle with care, twist neck until tight and fold over to form a 'swan neck'. Apply the ratchet-type healthcare waste tag supplied, close and lock in position ready for uplift;
- ✓ If small waste bags are used, these should then be collected together in a large waste bag to reduce implications on handling and storage;
- ✓ Colour coded bins should be sealed when three quarters full; Place the ratchet-type healthcare waste tag through the loop on the bin **AND** the loop on the lid where present. This helps stop lids coming off in transit.
- ✓ Complete the bin label giving the premises location, the name of the person disposing and date of disposal, before storing and presenting for collection;
- ✓ Safely store the waste, at a designated secure point, exclusively for the type of waste, in a manner suitable for collection. i.e. keep any Orange Stream distinctly separate from any Yellow Stream and same for any from the Red Stream – and within each stream - keep bags separate from bins;
- ✓ Ensure the Producer Sections of Transfer/Consignment Notes are completed and signed by the Authorised Person for the premises;

➤ Producer Records require to be maintained for three years. (*Paperwork will be provided for signature at uplift, based on the contract specification for retention*).

➤ Waste Producer's should be aware that SEPA frequently inspect premises and records on wastes. If found lacking in undertaking of the Duty of Care (by mis-segregation, mishandling/storage or mis-consignment), SEPA may take action directly with the Waste Producer concerned.

- ✘ NEVER overfill waste containers – bursts and spillages can be avoided;
- ✘ NEVER place bin containers into bags;
- ✘ NEVER use bags as sleeves in pedal-bins or similar domestic containers;
- ✘ Incorrectly packaged or inadequately sealed waste containers presented for collection will not be uplifted;

Points of Contact

If there are any concerns regarding Operational Services, please contact Transport Helpdesk at nhsg.TransportLogistics@nhs.net or 01224 552891

If there are any concerns regarding infection control, or advice and training, please contact NHS Grampian Infection Control on 01224 550998.

If there are any concerns regarding the management of wastes or if further advice is required, please contact NHS Grampian Waste Management Officer at neil.duncan3@nhs.net or 01343 567434.