



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
STANDARD PRACTICE

NO 13-2.11

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DEPARTMENT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SUBJECT

HANDLING OF CONTAMINATED  
WASTE/NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

APPROVED

*James McReynolds*  
James McReynolds, Director

I. POLICY

All contaminated waste/needles and syringes from the Department of Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinics will be stored, transported and disposed of within the guidelines of approved Public Health policies. Needles and syringes will be disposed of according to State Law, Department of Behavioral Health and County Medical Center policies.

II. PURPOSE

To protect the health and safety of all employees exposed to contaminated waste/needles and syringes by use of proper techniques.

III. DEFINITION

Infectious/contaminated waste is defined as any disposable non-reusable device/supply contaminated by blood or body fluids; waste from the DBH clinics is limited to used needles and syringes.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. On-site Storage/Collection: Approved containers of contaminated waste/needles and syringes will be secured, deposited in red plastic bags and stored in an area that precludes access by unauthorized persons while on the clinic premises. Personnel will properly and safely dispose of needles and syringes intact and uncapped in an approved container. Rigid red plastic containers can be ordered from CMC Central Material.
- B. Frequency of Pick-up: Such waste shall be picked up as necessary, when containers are no more than 3/4 full, by personnel who have been trained specifically in the area of handling such waste. The containers will be capped, secured and deposited in red bags as infectious waste. Red bags may be ordered from Central Stores through DBH Property Management.
- C. Transport and Destruction: Such waste shall be transported in red plastic bags to Ward B where it will be receive by trained personnel whose job it is to deliver such waste to the SBCMC for destruction by incineration. DBH Outpatient Clinics will order the containers and bags and follow the above procedures A and B. The red bags of infectious waste will be picked up at the clinic by the storekeeper and delivered to the Information Desk area in Building 1 (Ward B) and placed in the housekeeping closet. The storekeeper

will notify CMC Housekeeping staff (X8111, beeper 44-405) to pick up and dispose of the waste. This service is available every day expect Sunday and Monday.

D. Personnel Protection: Personnel who transport such waste shall be provided with inservice training and knowledge necessary to ensure the safe handling of the waste and protection of the employee.

E. Ordering Information:

1. Red bags for contaminated materials can be ordered through DBH Property Management from Central Stores:

Large size: 23 x 17 x 48 (200/case)

Medium size: 16 x 14 x 37 (150/case)

2. Rigid red plastic containers may be ordered from Central Material in 1 or 3 gallon sizes.

1 Gallon: Protec 1-G

3 Gallon: Protec 3-G

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