

Clinical Waste Management Plan

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Purpose and Scope	5
Definitions.....	5
Key Terms	5
Types of Clinical and Related Waste	6
Roles and Responsibilities.....	6
Officers and Senior Management.....	6
Managers and Supervisors.....	7
Workers.....	7
Contractors and Waste Service Providers	7
Legislative and Standards Framework.....	7
Risk Management.....	8
Hazard Identification	8
Risk Assessment.....	8
Risk Control	9
Risk Register.....	9
Segregation and Classification of Waste.....	9
General Principles.....	9
Colour Coding and Labelling	10
Examples by Sector	10
Containers, Packaging and Labelling.....	10
Clinical Waste Bags and Bins.....	10
Sharps Containers	11
Labelling Requirements.....	11
Storage of Clinical Waste.....	11
Interim Storage Areas.....	11
Time Limits and Volume Control.....	12
External Storage for Collection.....	12
Handling, Transport and Disposal	12
Internal Handling and Transport	12
External Transport and Contractors.....	12

Disposal Methods.....	13
Sharps Management	13
Use and Handling of Sharps.....	13
Sharps Found in Public or Client Areas	13
Needle-stick and Sharps Injury Management	14
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	14
PPE Requirements.....	14
Use, Maintenance and Disposal of PPE.....	14
Infection Prevention and Control.....	15
Standard Precautions.....	15
Additional Precautions.....	15
Cleaning and Decontamination.....	15
Routine Cleaning.....	15
Blood and Body Fluid Spills.....	15
Manual Handling and Ergonomics.....	16
Risk Controls.....	16
Training, Induction and Competency.....	16
Training Requirements.....	16
Induction	16
Competency and Refresher Training	17
Consultation, Communication and Signage	17
Worker Consultation.....	17
Communication	17
Signage and Labelling.....	17
Incident Reporting and Investigation.....	17
Reporting Requirements	17
Investigation and Corrective Actions.....	18
Incident Register	18
Emergency Response	18
Potential Emergencies	18
Emergency Procedures.....	18
Documentation and Record Keeping	19

Records to be Maintained 19
Document Control 19
Monitoring, Inspection and Audit 19
 Routine Inspections..... 19
 Audits..... 20
Plan Implementation Checklist..... 20
Review and Continuous Improvement 21

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Purpose and Scope

This Clinical Waste Management Plan sets out how [Company Name] will safely manage the generation, handling, transport, storage and disposal of clinical and related waste in accordance with Australian work health and safety (WHS) legislation, relevant environmental regulations and local council requirements.

The plan applies to all workers, contractors, volunteers and visitors involved in activities where clinical waste may be generated, including:

- Disability and aged care services (e.g. personal care, wound care, continence care, medication administration)
- Commercial cleaning operations (e.g. cleaning of bathrooms, medical treatment rooms, public amenities, sharps room on site)
- Hospitality and events (e.g. first aid rooms, public events, needle and syringe finds, blood or body fluid spills)

This plan covers:

- Identification and classification of clinical and related waste
- Risk management and control measures
- Segregation, containment, labelling and storage
- Handling, transport and disposal
- Sharps management
- Training, supervision and consultation
- Emergency response and incident management
- Monitoring, review and continuous improvement

Definitions

Key Terms

For the purposes of this plan, the following definitions apply:

- **Clinical waste** – Waste that has the potential to cause disease, including waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunisation of persons or animals, or in related research, that may contain blood, body substances, infectious agents, or other materials that pose a risk of infection.
- **Related waste** – Waste that may not be infectious but requires specific handling and disposal due to its nature, including sharps, pharmaceutical waste, cytotoxic waste, chemical waste, and anatomical waste.
- **Sharps** – Items that can cause cuts or puncture wounds, including needles, syringes with needles, lancets, scalpels, broken glass contaminated with blood or body fluids, and similar items.

- **Worker** – Any person who carries out work in any capacity for [Company Name], including employees, contractors, labour hire workers, apprentices, trainees, volunteers and work experience students.
- **PCBU** – Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking, as defined by WHS legislation. For this plan, [Company Name] is the PCBU.
- **Hierarchy of control** – A system for controlling risks in order of effectiveness: elimination, substitution, isolation, engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Types of Clinical and Related Waste

[Company Name] recognises the following categories of clinical and related waste that may be generated in disability and aged care, commercial cleaning, hospitality and events:

- Infectious clinical waste (e.g. blood-soaked dressings, swabs, contaminated materials)
- Sharps waste (e.g. needles, syringes, scalpels, contaminated broken glass)
- Human blood and body substance waste (e.g. blood, vomit, faeces, urine in some circumstances)
- Pharmaceutical waste (e.g. expired medications, partially used medications, returned medications)
- Cytotoxic waste (where applicable, e.g. certain chemotherapy drugs in aged care facilities)
- Chemical waste (e.g. disinfectants, cleaning chemicals, laboratory reagents)
- Anatomical waste (where applicable, e.g. tissue or body parts from clinical procedures)

Roles and Responsibilities

Officers and Senior Management

Officers and senior management of [Company Name] are responsible for exercising due diligence to ensure the PCBU meets its WHS obligations in relation to clinical waste management. This includes ensuring that:

- Appropriate resources and processes are provided for safe clinical waste management
- Safe systems of work are implemented and maintained
- Clinical waste risks are identified, assessed and controlled
- Workers are provided with information, training, instruction and supervision
- There is effective consultation with workers and health and safety representatives
- Incidents involving clinical waste are reported, investigated and corrective actions implemented