

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Storage and Containment of Clinical Waste Before Disposal

1. Purpose

This SOP outlines the procedures for **storage and containment of clinical waste before disposal**, ensuring segregation of different waste types, use of proper containers, labeling, secure storage, temperature control, and regular inspection. The aim is to prevent contamination, unauthorized access, and hazards to healthcare workers, patients, and the environment.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all healthcare workers, cleaning staff, and waste handlers responsible for the management and storage of clinical waste prior to disposal at [Facility Name] .

3. Definitions

- **Clinical Waste:** Waste generated from medical, dental, nursing, or similar procedures that may present a risk of infection.
- **Sharps:** Items such as needles, blades, and syringes that can cause cuts or punctures.
- **Secure Storage:** Locked, designated areas inaccessible to unauthorized persons.

4. Responsibilities

- **All staff:** Proper segregation and disposal of clinical waste.
- **Waste Management Team:** Monitoring storage areas, container availability, and inspection records.
- **Supervisors:** Ensuring compliance with this SOP and arranging training.

5. Procedure

5.1 Waste Segregation

- Segregate clinical waste at point of generation using color-coded containers according to regulatory guidelines (see table below).

Waste Type	Container Color	Example Waste
Infectious Waste	Yellow	Blood-soaked materials, swabs, cultures
Sharps	Yellow with sharps symbol	Needles, blades, scalpels
Pharmaceutical Waste	Blue	Out-of-date drugs, vaccine vials
Cytotoxic Waste	Purple	Cytotoxic drugs and related materials

5.2 Appropriate Containers and Labeling

1. Only use approved, leak-proof, puncture-resistant containers with secure lids for each waste type.
2. Clearly label all containers with:
 - Type of waste
 - Date and time of sealing
 - Department or ward name

5.3 Secure Storage Practices

1. Store filled waste containers in **designated, locked clinical waste holding rooms** or cabinets.
2. Ensure storage areas are inaccessible to the public, patients, and unauthorized staff at all times.

3. Maintain separation from clean supplies and food preparation areas.
4. Keep containers upright and with lids securely fastened.

5.4 Temperature Controls

- Store hazardous clinical waste (e.g., anatomical waste) under refrigeration ($\pm 8^{\circ}\text{C}$) if not collected within 24 hours.
- Record temperatures daily; report excursions above set limits to supervisors immediately.

5.5 Routine Inspection

1. Inspect storage areas and containers daily for:
 - Overfilled or damaged containers
 - Leaks, spills, or odors
 - Proper labeling and segregation
2. Document inspections in a logbook. Notify waste management team of any issues.

6. References

- Local and national clinical waste regulations
- WHO - Safe management of wastes from health-care activities
- [Insert facility-specific references]

7. Revision & Review

This SOP shall be reviewed annually or as required by regulatory updates, with document control maintained by the Waste Management Team.