

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE REQUIREMENTS

Any material that meets the definition of REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE must be handled, stored and disposed in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and local regulations and University requirements.



It is important to understand what is considered regulated medical waste (RMW). In some cases, there is a risk/perception factor included in our procedures that may cause NYU to handle certain items, not RMW in the true sense of the definition, with greater precaution. If there is ever any question about how to handle a particular waste material, please call Environmental Health & Safety.

DEFINITION OF REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (RMW):

RMW refers to the following items regulated under federal, state, or local regulations:

- ❑ All materials or agents that can be infectious. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Cultures & stocks of infectious agents, and associated biologicals including serums, vaccines, antigens, and antitoxins;
 - Human pathological waste (tissue, organs, body parts & body fluids);
 - Blood or blood products, items saturated or caked with blood, & their containers;
 - Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, & bedding of animals known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research or production of biologicals/pharmaceuticals.
 - Any personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, etc.) or other waste that has been in contact with any of these materials. Labs generating RMW should consider all gloves RMW.
- ❑ Sharps:
 - Needles, syringes, and scalpels (regardless of whether they are used or contaminated);
 - Any sharp object (broken glass, glass tubes, slides, pasteur pipettes, etc.) that could puncture or scrape the skin and which was used in work involving infectious agents.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL:

- ❑ RMW containers shall be leak-proof, have lids, and remain closed except when adding waste.
 - If the cardboard biohazard disposal boxes are used, they must be lined with two red liners. The outer liner must have the generator's name and address preprinted on the outside.
 - If the reusable plastic biohazard disposal containers are used (e.g., at the Dental Center), only one red liner, with the preprinted generator's name and address, is required.
 - If smaller collection containers are used in labs, they must be lined with at least one red liner. When full, the inner liner shall be sealed and placed in a lined disposal container. Use a labeled plastic container to carry the sealed inner liners to the main disposal container.
- ❑ When a box is ready for disposal, the inner liner(s) must be taped shut, and then the outer liner must be taped shut. Finally, the box must also be closed and sealed with packing tape.
- ❑ To avoid rupture, do not overfill containers. At 90% capacity a container is considered full.
- ❑ Contact your building manager to arrange for in-laboratory pickup of the sealed boxes.

REMEMBER:

- ❑ RMW boxes must not be left unattended in hallways awaiting pick-up.
- ❑ All persons should be aware of the hazards of all materials with which they work.