



Medical Waste Storage Labeling, Holding Times and Treatment Methods

Medical Waste Stream	Primary Container to be disposed into	“Transport” or secondary Container	“Transport” or Secondary Container Labeling	Holding Time and Conditions Onsite	Treatment Method
Biohazardous Waste (bloody items, gauze, soiled gowns / gloves, suction canisters with bloody fluids) 	Labeled biohazardous waste container lined with a red biohazard bag. LABELED: “Biohazardous Waste” or “BIOHAZARD” with international biohazard symbol.	Secured red bag in the secondary transport container that is rigid with a tight fitting lid and lined with a red bag.	Labeled on lid and sides visible from any lateral direction with “Biohazardous Waste” or “BIOHAZARD” with the international biohazard symbol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At >0°C, ≥ 20 pounds / month, shall contain or store ≤ 7 days* At >0°C, < 20 pounds shall contain or store ≤ 30 days At ≤ 0°C, any amount may be stored up to 90 days. 	Steam Sterilization or approved Alt Tech
Sharps Waste (needles, broken glass vials, blades, clips, pins, trocars, empty carpullets & syringes with trace amount of medication) 	Sharps waste container (Sharps “containers”, not individual sharp/needle, may be placed in red biohazard bags). LABELED: “Sharps Waste” or “BIOHAZARD” with international biohazard symbol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharps waste container in a red biohazard bag in a rigid container with a tight fitting lid, or Individual sharps waste container by itself. 	Label sharps containers with the words “sharps waste” or with the international biohazard symbol and the word “BIOHAZARD”.	Closed sharps containers ready for disposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At >0°C, any amount may be stored ≤ 30 days* At ≤ 0°C, any amount may be stored up to 90 days. 	Steam Sterilization or approved Alt Tech
Chemotherapy Waste 	Chemotherapy waste container or a biohazardous waste container with a red or yellow biohazard bag. LABELED: “Chemotherapy Waste” or “CHEMO” with “INCINERATION ONLY”.	Chemotherapy waste transport container by itself (must be a rigid container with a tight fitting lid).	Labeled on lid and sides visible from any lateral direction with “Chemotherapy Waste” or “CHEMO” and “INCINERATION ONLY”. (No symbol requirement). <small>For chemo sharps containers, see sharps labeling listed above and include “Chemotherapy Waste” labeling.</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At >0°C, ≥ 20 pounds / month, shall contain or store ≤ (7) days* At >0°C, < 20 pounds shall contain or store ≤ 30 days At ≤ 0°C, any amount may be stored up to 90 days. 	Incineration
Pathology Waste 	Pathology waste (including solidified suction canisters) container lined with a red or white biohazard bag. LABELED: “Pathology Waste” or “PATH” with INCINERATION ONLY	Pathology waste transport container by itself (must be a rigid container with a tight fitting lid).	Labeled on lid and sides visible from any lateral direction with “Pathology Waste” or “PATH” and “INCINERATION ONLY”. (No symbol requirement).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At >0°C, ≥ 20 pounds / month, shall contain or store ≤ (7) days* At >0°C, < 20 pounds shall contain or store ≤ 30 days At ≤ 0°C, any amount may be stored up to 90 days. 	Incineration or approved Alt Tech
Pharmaceutical Waste (All syringes, vials with residual medication, pills) 	Pharmaceutical waste container. LABELED: “HIGH HEAT” or “INCINERATION ONLY”. Controlled substances must be rendered non-retrievable.	Pharmaceutical waste transport container by itself (must be a rigid container with a tight fitting lid). Unopened/Unused or expired – Return to Pharmacy	Labeled on lid and sides visible from any lateral direction with “HIGH HEAT” or “INCINERATION ONLY”. <small>(No biohazard symbol required unless comingling sharps and pharmaceuticals).</small>	Pharmaceutical waste containers (not temperature relevant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if full, ≤ 90 days* if not full, once per year. 	Incineration

Medical waste packaged for shipment offsite must be in a rigid non-bulk packaging conforming to the packaging requirements of §§173.24 and 173.24a and packaging requirements specified in 29 CFR 1910.1030. *Reference: HSC Sections 118275, 118280, 118285; 49 CFR Sections 173.24, 173.24a; 23 CFR Section 1910.1030.*

* If odor presents a nuisance, more frequent removal is required



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