



<b>Section</b>	Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	<b>Effective:</b>	06/07
<b>Sub-section</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	Medical Waste Management – Biohazardous and Sharps Waste	<b>Revisions</b>	10/16, 4/17
<b>Policy #</b>	110		
<b>Director's Approval</b>	_____	<b>Date</b>	_____
	Alice Gleghorn, PhD		
<b>PHF Medical Director's Approval</b>	_____	<b>Date</b>	_____
	Ole Behrendtsen MD		
	Infection Control Committee Approved	Date: ____	<b>Audit Date:</b>

## 1. PURPOSE/SCOPE

To handle biozardous waste and sharps waste in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act of California and The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- a. Biohazardous Waste:
  1. Items saturated with blood such that the item drips blood when compressed.
  2. Blood – liquid (drips) or semi liquid state.
- b. Sharps Waste: needles, scalpels
- c. Sharps Container: rigid, leak-proof red container labeled with the international biohazard symbol
- d. Biohazardous Waste Bag: Bags are red, impervious to moisture and have sufficient strength that bursting, leaking or ripping do not occur. Said bags are labeled "Biohazardous" and have the international biohazard symbol on them.

## 3. POLICY

- a. Medical Waste will be handled in accordance with applicable local and state regulations.

#### 4. PROCEDURE

##### 4.1 Sharps:

- a. Immediately following use, the safety feature of the syringe is activated.
- b. The syringe (and needle) will be placed in the red sharps container marked with a biohazard sign.
- c. Sharps containers that are filled to the fill line or close to the fill line will be closed and replaced immediately.
- d. Sharps containers will be packaged according to the contracted vendor's instructions and placed in the front office.

##### 4.2 Biohazardous Waste

- a. Biohazardous waste will be placed in the red biohazard waste bag contained in the "Spill Kit Recovery System" container provided by the contracted vendor. The biohazardous bag and the container is located in the examination room.
- b. The biohazardous waste bag is placed in the container and packaged according to the contracted vendor's instructions and placed in the front office.
- c. A new biohazardous waste container is placed in the designated cupboard in the Examination Room.

#### REFERENCE

California Medical Waste Management Act: CA Health and Safety Code Sections 117600-118360

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (29 CFR Section 1910.1030).

#### ATTACHMENTS

SBPHF Infection Control Waste Grid

##### ***Culturally and Linguistically Competent Policies***

*The Department of Behavioral Wellness is committed to the tenets of cultural competency and understands that culturally and linguistically appropriate services are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse individuals. All policies and procedures are intended to reflect the integration of diversity and cultural literacy throughout the Department. To the fullest extent possible, information, services and treatments will be provided (in verbal and/or written form) in the individual's preferred language or mode of communication (i.e. assistive devices for blind/deaf).*