REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE
Q & A
GENERATOR FACT SHEET

(Revised November 2013)

THE NEW JERSEY REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE PROGRAM IS A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES FOR THE PROPER AND SAFE TRACKING, ON-SITE CONTROL, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL WASTES BY USING A SPECIAL TRACKING FORM TOGETHER WITH SPECIFIC PACKAGING, MARKING, LABELING, REPORTING, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS. THE REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE FACT SHEETS ARE A PUBLICATION OF THE SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SHWMP), BUREAU OF LANDFILL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMITTING. THESE FACT SHEETS ARE DESIGNED ONLY AS AN INFORMATION GUIDE, TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW JERSEY RMW REGULATIONS. ALL PERSONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RMW REGULATIONS AT N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A ET SEQ.

REPORT ALL INCIDENTS CONCERNING RELEASES OF RMW BY CALLING THE NJDEP 24-HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE AT 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S MEDICAL WASTE REGULATIONS:

Q1. Are regulated medical waste (RMW) generators required to dispose of (have a registered transporter pick up) their waste monthly or at definite time periods?

A. No. The medical waste regulations do not require generators to disposal of their waste monthly or at other regular periodic time periods. However, all RMW must be disposed of within one year of its generation. N.JA.C. 7:26-3A.12(b).

Q2. Are carpules generated at a dentist's office considered RMW?

A. Yes. Carpules are RMW (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a)). They are classified as Class 4 (Sharps). They must be handled with the other sharps such as syringes (with or without the attached needle), needles, endo files, burrs, etc. generated at a dentist's office.

Q3. What are the regulated body fluids?

A. Regulated body fluids are liquids emanating or derived from humans and are limited to blood, cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial fluids, semen, vaginal secretions, and amniotic fluid. Saliva and urine are not regulated body fluids.

Q4. What is isolation waste Class 6? Is waste generated while treating a patient with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) considered to be isolation waste?

A. Isolation waste is defined as "Any biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable diseases (such as lassa fever or smallpox, etc.) or animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases" (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a)). The infectious agents causing these diseases are listed in Level 4 of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) document entitled "Classification of Etiologic Agents on the Basis of Hazard." The CDC guidelines do not list the AIDS virus, therefore waste generated while treating a patient with AIDS is not an isolation waste Class 6. A list of infectious agents included in Class 6 is available from the Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting.

Q5. Are intravenous (IV) bags, tubes, and needles that only had saline or nutrient medium in them considered regulated medical waste (RMW)?

A. The needles are always considered RMW pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a). However, if the IV bag and tubing have not come into contact with blood or other regulated body fluid, and they are separate from the needle,

the IV bag and/or tubing alone are not considered RMW. IV Bags/tubing with visible blood or known body fluids are considered RMW.

Q6. Are paper towels or latex gloves containing a drop (or a few drops) of blood or other regulated body fluids considered RMW?

A. No. Paper towels or gloves are RWM when saturated with a regulated body fluid and are either: 1. dripping and soaked in; or 2. have dried or caked regulated body fluids on them after having been saturated with such fluids.

Q7. Are orthodontic wires, brackets and bonding material considered RMW?

A. Orthodontic wire, brackets and bonding material are generally not considered RMW as they do not meet the definition of RMW. These items would have to be managed as RMW, if they become saturated and/or dripping with blood or regulated body fluids, or were saturated and/or dripping and are now dried and caked with blood or regulated body fluids (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a)). They would be a Class 4 RMW.

Additionally, in certain very rare circumstances, orthodontic wires and other oral appliances would be regulated as Class 6 (Isolation Waste), if they were removed for some reason from a patient with any of the serious diseases listed at CDC Level 4.

Q8. Are strep test cards, discs and slides considered RMW?

A. If step test cards, discs and slides are medical diagnostic test systems that contain any biologicals, such as animal antibodies or products of their metabolism, they would be considered RMW Class 1 (Cultures & Stocks) and would be subject to all RMW regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a)). However, if they are medical diagnostic test systems that consist of non-biological reagents, they would not be considered RMW. Swabs that are used to inoculate a culture are considered RMW Class 1 (Cultures & Stocks).

Q9. Are animal blood and vaccine vials considered RMW?

A. Blood vials that have been used in animal care are considered RMW Class 4 (Sharps) and must be handled as such. Animal vaccine vials that have contained agents that have the potential to cause disease in humans are considered RMW Class 4 (Sharps) (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(a)). Vaccine vials that have contained agents infectious only to non-humans are not considered RMW.

Q10. Are barium enema bags considered RMW?

A. No, barium enema bags are generally not considered RMW, as they do not meet the definition of RMW found at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6. These items would only be considered RMW if they are saturated and/or dripping with blood or are now caked with dried human blood or regulated body fluids. Additionally, in certain very rare circumstances these items would be regulated as Class 6 (Isolation Waste), if they were generated from a patient with any of the serious disease listed at CDC Level 4.

Q11. When is my annual generator report (AGR) due? Must I request it be mailed to me?

A. Generators are responsible for submitted a completed annual report to the Department by July 21 of each calendar year (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.21(d)). The AGR is mailed to all registered generators. However, if you fail to receive a form, you may request one by calling (609) 984-6985.

Q12. If for some reason the Department did not receive an AGR from a generator by the due date and requests the AGR from the generator. However, the generator has documentation that the completed report was submitted, how should the generator respond to the request?

A. The generator should submit a copy of the completed AGR from its records.

Q13. If I have more than on office, must I register each location with the Department?

A. Yes, each location that generates RMW must be registered with the Department (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.5) unless a location is a temporary one operating less than 15 days per year (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17(e)). Call the RMW Generator Registration unit at (609) 984-3448 for a registration packet.

Q14. If generators treat and destroy their own RMW by method such as treating with chlorine bleach and grinding, are they considered a destination facility and have to register as one?

A. Yes, generators that both treat and destroy their own RMW on site are considered destination facility and

must register as such with the Department. This includes all facilities that accept RMW from other registered generators for treatment and destruction. Registration forms are available by calling (609) 984-6985.

Q15. Where can a generator obtain medical waste tracking forms? Is there a fee for them? How many can be ordered at one time?

A. A generator/transporter can obtain the medical waste tracking form, free of charge from Mail Code: 401-02C, NJDEP, Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 or by calling (609) 984-6985 during normal business hours.

Q16. Is a generator required to submit copies of the tracking forms to the Department?

A. No, generators are not required to submit copies of tracking forms to the Department. Copies of these forms must be retained by the generator for at least three years from the date the waste was accepted by the initial medical waste transporter, unless the Department specifically requires an additional retention period. State inspectors will check these records during compliance inspections.

Q17. Are other generators, such as hospitals, permitted to pick up RMW generated by another generator, such as a private practitioner?

A. No generators, such as hospitals, cannot transport another generator's RMW without possessing the permits listed at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.27. These requirements include:

1. Registering as an RMW transporter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.8;

2. Registering as a solid waste transporter; and

3. Obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Compliance and Enforcement Program, Bureau of Local Environmental Management.

Q18 What should I do if I do not receive Copy 1 of the Medical Waste Tracking Form from the destination facility?

A. If you do not receive a completed Copy 1 of the tracking form with a handwritten signature of the owner/operator within 35 days of initial transport off site, you should contact the destination facility and attempt to determine the status of the tracked waste. If, within 45 days of initial transport off-site, you still do not receive Copy 1 of the tracking form, you must submit an exception report to: Mail Code 09-01, NJDEP, Solid Waste Compliance & Enforcement, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.22(b))

Q19 If I have more than one office may I take the RMW to one site for storage, consolidation or disposal?

A. Yes. The a generator must generate less than 50 lbs per month and transport its waste in a vehicle weighing less than 8,000 lbs. (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17). A RMW tracking form must still accompany the RMW from one site to another. Please note that generators, who accept RMW for storage or consolidation, must be registered as a collection facility and generators, who accept RMW for disposal, must be registered as a RMW destination facility.

Q20. May mail services be used to transport RMW?

A. Yes, the US Postal Service can be used to transport RMW Class 4 (Sharps) and Class 7 (Unused Sharps) for disposal. The RMW must be sent registered or certified mail, return receipt requested (indicating the person to which the package is sent, signature of the sender, date and address where delivered) or priority mail as required by N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17(b). The generator must retain the original receipt and the returned registered or certified mail receipt and attach them to the generator copy of the tracking form.

The generator must sign the generator certification of the tracking form by hand; sign the transporter section indicating the transporter is the US Postal Service and enter the date the shipment was mailed; and ensure that the tracking form accompanies the RMW while in transit (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.17(b)).

Q21. How do I dispose of RMW that is derived from radioactive medical materials?

A. Such waste may be returned to the supplier of the original radioactive medical materials using a registered RMW transporter and completing a RMW form as described in N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.19(h).

Q22. May I recycle RMW?

A. Yes, certain materials that are reused or recycled in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, local laws and regulations for the handling and managing of such materials, are not considered RMW if the generator

first treats the materials and, for sharps, destroys them prior to shipping off site (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.6(b)).

Q23. What is the proper way to mark and label packages of RMW?

A. See Figure 1 on this Fact Sheet (N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A.14 and 15).

Q24. If I am in compliance with the Department's medical waste regulations, can I assume that I am in compliance with OSHA regulations?

A. No, the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) within the U.S. Department of Labor has separate regulations with which you must comply for a boarder range of patient contact issues and for materials and waste produced at your business other than RMW. Therefore, you must contact OSHA for guidance regarding those regulations.

Q25. Is waste generated from Body Art Establishments (ie. tattoo parlors, body piercers, and permanent cosmetic professionals) considered RMW?

A. The public health risks inherent to Body Art arise largely from the use of sharps and the potential to transmit blood borne pathogens. Therefore, in 2001 the Department of Health promulgated N.J.A.C. 7:26-8:27 entitled "Body Art Procedures." This subchapter incorporates the RMW regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A by cross-reference. Therefore, sharps and blood soaked items from Body Art establishments must be managed as RMW.

Telephone Numbers for Regulatory and Technical Assistance

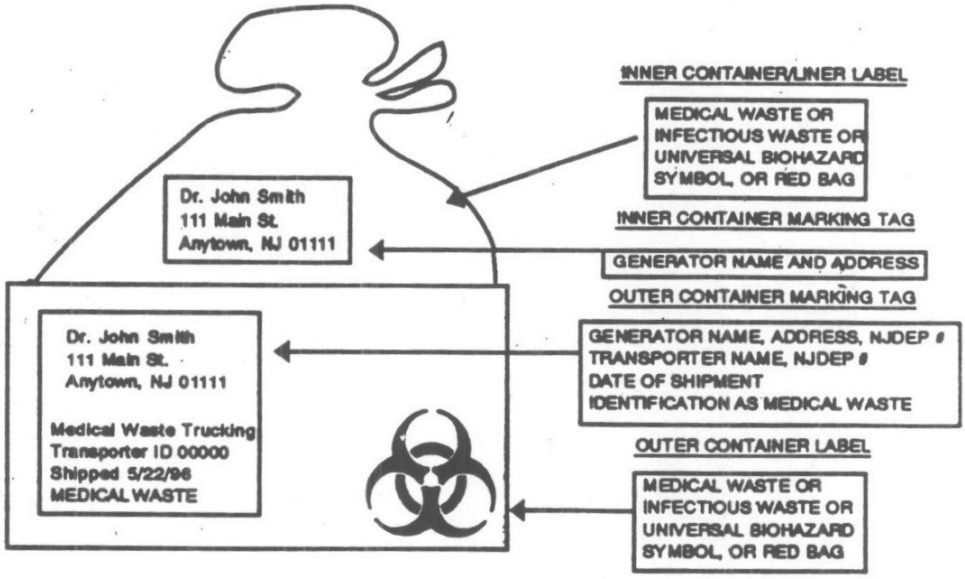
NJDEP

***** Medical Waste Technical Assistance	(609) 984-6985
* Medical Waste Generator Registration	(609) 984-3448
* Medical Waste Transporter Registration	(609) 292-7081
* Medical Waste Facility Registration	(609) 984-6985
* Compliance and Enforcement (Transporter & Facility)	(609) 292-6305

New Jersey Department of Health

* Consumer and Environmental Health Services	(609) 826-4941

Figure 1



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