

**Section 8: Management of Single Use
and Reusable Medical
Equipment/Devices**

Policy number: **8.2**

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Subject: **Disposal of Single Use Medical
Equipment/Devices**

Revised:

Distribution: **All FNIHB Staff**

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The transmission of infectious agents can occur with the improper handling and transporting of single use medical equipment/devices. If soiled/contaminated single use medical devices are not disposed of and handled properly there is an increased risk of exposure/injury to HCPs and clients and/or contamination of the environment. Single use medical equipment/devices (SUD) must be handled in an environmentally-friendly way and transported in a manner which maximizes safety for both clients and HCPs.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 All FNIHB health facilities that perform invasive procedures must ensure that all single use medical equipment/devices (SUD) are handled, disposed of and transported in a manner that maximizes safety for both clients and health care providers (HCPs).

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Sharps such as needles, lancets, blades and glass cannot be safely cleaned and therefore such items must be SUD.
- 3.2 All sharps must be disposed of by the user in the appropriate puncture-proof Sharps container at the point-of-care.
- 3.3 Once contaminated, SUDs, excluding sharps, must be disposed of in a yellow disposal container (labeled with a biohazard symbol). NOTE: Absolutely no sharps are to be placed in this container.
- 3.4 The SUD disposal container should be located in a designated “dirty” location, away from client-care areas.
- 3.5 Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by HCPs in the handling of all contaminated, single-use items for disposal.

- 3.6 All packaging (wrap or plastic pouches etc.) associated with the single-use tray/item can be discarded in the regular garbage. NOTE: Only the SUD itself, and not the packaging, is to be placed into the disposal container.
- 3.7 Following disposal of the contaminated, SUD into the disposal container, disposable gloves are to be removed and hand hygiene performed before leaving the area.
- 3.8 When the disposal container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, the container is sealed closed with the plastic lid designed for the disposal container.
- 3.9 The environmental cleaner (e.g. caretaker, janitor, housekeeper) then places the disposal container in the biohazard box that is lined with a yellow bag. The box must be clearly labeled MEDICAL WASTE.
- 3.10 The box is taken to the designated clinic area for storage until final pick-up by the contractor.
- 3.11 Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) regulations (including use of appropriate process/forms) must be adhered to, if transporting contaminated devices by air or road. (Refer to Policy 6.1: Collection and Transportation of Laboratory Specimens).

4 REFERENCES

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