



Subject: Self-Assessment of "**Hospital & Medical Waste Management**"
at Individual Health Care Facility in Public, Corporation and
Private Health Sector.

Introduction:

One area currently of great interest is to both the Public and the Medical Profession is the Environment. Doctors have always been involved in 'Managing' the Environment, as instanced in the campaigns to minimize infections by improved sanitation in the Nineteenth Century. In this respect, the interest shown by the Medical profession in Environmental matters is not a recent fad of 'Greenery' but represents part of a long standing and Honorable tradition of exerting influence to protect and enhance the Public Health.

At the turn of the century, entering in to the Twenty-first century, there is a worldwide effort to encounter the complexity of 'Management' and 'Handling' of the 'Infectious waste' and the 'Hazardous waste' coming out of Health care facilities. In India we now have the '**Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998**', of Ministry of Environment and Forest which forms the basis, and upon this law, the Health Care facilities could formulate their Plan for Management and Handling of 'Infectious waste', 'Hazardous waste' and 'General waste'.

The Waste Management Plan has to be evolved and implemented by an incremental approach. Safe methods for waste (Infectious as well as Hazardous waste) Treatment and Disposal methods have to be Evaluated and Estimated; Governing laws have to be understood and adhered to; All costs related to waste handling have to be minimized. This requires an interface between Medical Profession and other specialist expertise in examining the important issues of Waste Management at the Health Care facilities. No two institutes needs are alike, and each individual health care facility has to formulate their Policy & Plan.

SELF-ASSESSMENT ASPECTS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARES FACILITY.

A. Legal

1. Have the copies of 'Bio-medical waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998', been made available to each of your department Heads/managers including Medical, Nursing, Administration, Accounts, Purchase, Stores, Engineering and Sanitation departments? Have you jointly reviewed the Responsibilities of Waste Management with the entire above department Heads/Managers?
2. Have you examined other Pollution Control Board Laws related to 'Bio-medical waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1998'? This would include, but not limited to The Hazardous waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1988;/ The Maharashtra Smoke Nuisance Act;/ Rules related to Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989.



3. Has your institute prepared and submitted the Application for 'Authorization' to the Pollution Control Board towards Generation, Collection, Receiving, Storing, Transporting, Disposing and or handling of Bio-medical waste? Have the 'Authorization' approvals been obtained?

B. Current Waste Management Practices

1. Do you have a documented Waste Management Plan? Is the Waste management Plan kept available at each key location?
2. Are the Hygiene and sanitation facilities supervised daily?
3. Do you measure and quantify the Waste quantity?
4. Are the Health care workers been provided with Protective Gears and have they been immunized.
5. Are the 'Universal Precautions' displayed for emergency response action in the event of injury to Health Care worker handling Potentially Infectious waste, Blood Spills and Mercury Spills.
6. Do you periodically assess the efficacy of disinfectant used? Do you use the right choice of disinfectant for the choice of application? Have you considered replacing no-hazardous disinfectant in place of hazardous disinfectant in selected areas?
7. Do you have the infectious waste segregated from general waste? Do you sell your hazardous waste only to the licensed contractors who recycle hazardous waste?
8. Do you periodically conduct waste Audits?

C. Waste Handling, Treatment and Disposal

1. At on-site facility: a) Do you have waste disinfection facility such as Autoclave, Hydroclave, Microwave and Chemical Disinfection?; b) Do you have waste disposal arrangement of landfill and/or Incineration type?
2. For the off-site facility: Are you making off-site arrangements for Treatment and final disposal, with the local Civic/Municipality body or the NGO or the Private sector contractor?
3. Have you made finance provision for Costs towards waste Handling, Treatment and Disposal?
4. Have you made arrangements to destroy (Shred/Shear) the disposable items such as syringes, needles, IV sets, gloves and the like items, after its usage?

D. Training

1. Do you have a training program on waste management orientation for new workers at each department at the Health Care facility?
2. Do you have a comprehensive Training Program on waste management covering topics of Source waste reduction, waste Segregation, Handling, Storage, Transport, Treatment and Disposable?
3. Are the operators and supervisors of waste Treatment and Disposal equipment trained by competent people?