 <p>DR. PABLO O. TORRE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</p>	<p>B.S. Aquino Drive, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, 6100</p>	Document Code:	DPOTMH-I-40-P04-S03
		Effective Date:	04-15-2022
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		Department/Section:	ER/OPD
		Document Title:	HANDLING, STORING AND DISPOSING AMBULANCE WASTE

PURPOSE:

To properly manage infectious wastes, toxic and hazardous materials from the ambulance services.

SCOPE:

Applies to all ER/OPD staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:


Nurses, Doctors, Auxiliary personnel, Ambulance drivers, Housekeeping personnel

GENERAL GUIDELINES:


1. Medical staffs on duty have a responsibility to ensure that all waste is described accurately, safely and properly disposed of, via receptacles specifically provided for that purpose, taking note of any segregation requirements, as quickly as possible.

PROCEDURE:


1. All ambulance personnel who handles healthcare waste must ensure that they wear level 2 personal protective equipment (face shield, surgical face mask, gown/apron and gloves).
2. Identify and label the type of waste generated during the transport activity as follows:
 - a) General waste- comparable to domestic waste, this type of waste does not pose special handling problem or hazard to human health or to the environment.

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- b) Infectious Wastes- a type of waste is suspected to contain pathogens in sufficient concentration or quantity to cause disease in susceptible host
 - c) Hazardous Waste- a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment
 - d) Sharps- includes needles, syringes, scalpels, blades, broken glasses, ampules and any items that can cause a cut or puncture wounds.
 - e) Clinical waste- is any waste resulting from medical, nursing, dental, pharmaceutical, skin penetration or other related clinical activity that has the potential to cause injury or infection.
 - f) Pathological waste- waste consists of tissues, organs, body parts, human fetus and animal carcasses, blood and body fluids
 - g) Chemical waste- consists of discarded solid, liquid and gaseous chemicals, for example from a diagnostic experiment and experimental work and from cleaning, housekeeping and disinfecting procedures. Chemical waste from health care may be hazardous or non- hazardous.
 - h) Chemical waste is considered hazardous if it has at least one of the following properties:
 - Toxic
 - Corrosive
 - Flammable
 - Reactive (explosive, water- reactive, shock- sensitive)
 - Genotoxic (e.g cytostatic drugs)
 - i) Radioactive waste- includes disused sealed radiation, sources, liquid and gaseous materials contaminated with radioactivity, excreta of patients who underwent radionuclide diagnostic and therapeutic applications, paper cups, straw, needles and syringes, test tubes and tap water for washings of paraphernalia
3. Segregate Clinical waste at the point of production and store it securely on the vehicle until the vehicle is returned to the hospital. Throw the identified waste materials in the appropriate bins/ color coded bags.

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- 3.1. Yellow bag/ Infectious waste container bags shall be heavy duty plastics so it is not easy to puncture and shall be sealed before disposal to the hospital facility. Any item contaminated with blood or body fluids must be disposed of in a yellow plastic bag with label indicating whether it is soiled with blood or body fluids.
- 3.2. General wastes are to be placed in the general waste bin/white or clear plastic.
- 3.3. Pathological wastes are to be placed in red plastic bag.
- 3.4. Sharps and needles should be placed into a separate sharps container for disposal.
- 3.5. Chemical and radioactive waste must be disposed in accordance to the R.A. 6969 (An Act to Control Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes).
- 3.6. Place chemical wastes on a suitable container and labelled it as "Hazardous waste" with completed generator information. Always keep hazardous waste containers capped and closed except when adding or removing materials from the container.
- 3.7. Segregate waste containers according to contents (e.g flammable, corrosive, etc.)
- 3.8. Radioactive waste: Segregation of radioactive waste is essential. Such waste is to be placed into a clearly marked container.
 - a) Potentially contaminated items or radioactive material should NEVER be discarded into a regular trashcan.
 - b) No housekeeping staff should dispose of radioactive waste. Rather, radioactive waste should be secured against the potential or unauthorized removal and must always be labelled in a way as to restrict removal except by authorized personnel.
- 3.9. To ensure that a clear and auditable waste trail can be maintained, all waste generated in the ambulance must be identifiable with tags.
4. Do not overfill the bags (maximum 2/3 full) and ensure that they are sealed with a tie wrap or tied securely.

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5. Dispose clinical wastes as quickly as possible upon arrival.
6. Personnel assigned in the cleaning and disinfection of the ambulance should put the gathered waste materials in the staging area. They should not be allowed to accumulate in corridors, garages or other places accessible to unauthorized staff or members of the public. Clinical waste should be stored securely so as to prevent the escape of waste which could be harmful to staff and the surrounding environment.
 - 6.1. Soiled linens are to be kept in the infectious/yellow plastic bags and should be labeled accordingly to avoid mixing with the infectious wastes.
7. Housekeeping Personnel transports all collected infectious and pathological waste to hospital central waste storage area.
8. All ambulance waste must be disposed and emptied prior to dispatch or usage.
9. Routine disinfection of the ambulance must be carried out prior and post transport or patients.
10. Any incident, injury or spillage, or near miss, involving healthcare waste should be reported and recorded in accordance with the hospital incident reporting procedure.
11. All records must be fully maintained and kept according to the AMBULANCE RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL POLICY.

REFERENCE:








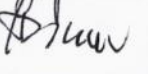
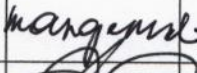
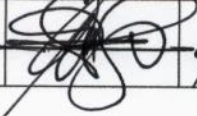
DOH Health Care Waste Manual

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