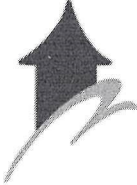


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<b>Section 5: Health and Safety</b>	
<b>Policy Title: Household Wastes</b>	<b>Policy Number: 5.70.100</b>
	<b>Effective Date: 4/1/2018</b>
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Rvw Date 5-4-21 MP

**PURPOSE**

To outline procedures for the handling and disposal of medical waste in the home to protect:

1. the environment and following people from infection and/or injury:
2. employees/clients/families, who are exposed to or handle medical wastes in the home; and,
3. individuals, who handle household wastes, once it leaves the home.

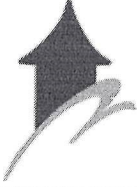
**POLICY**

Infinity Home Care Plus Inc is committed to ensuring that wastes, generated in the home, are collected, stored, transported, and disposed of in a manner that will minimize potential health risks to employees/clients/families/other individuals in accordance with the governing body that has jurisdiction over the local area (e.g. federal, state, county or municipal), and/or in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

**DEFINITIONS**

1. Household, Municipal, Solid Waste  
Household, municipal, solid waste is regular garbage, which presents fewer health or environmental risks than medical waste presents. It can be disposed of into dumpsters.
2. Household Medical Waste
  - a. Household medical waste is any waste that is generated as a result of health care activities in the home. It includes paper towels, diapers, incontinence pads, hypodermic needles, bandages, dressing wrappers, old dressings and used intravenous tubing.
  - b. Used intravenous tubing is tubing that has been used to administer blood/blood products.  
Note: Unused intravenous tubing has not been utilized and, therefore, is not considered to be medical waste.
  - c. Household medical waste does not include any hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or regular household waste.
  - d. Usually, medical wastes, produced in the home, do not pose a serious health concern unless the waste is infectious.
3. Infectious Waste  
Infectious waste is medical waste that presents significant health risk, such as the possibility of causing disease in another human being, should that person come into



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contact with the waste. Infectious waste includes wastes that are contaminated with blood, body fluids, or sharp objects from people who have infectious diseases.

4. **Regulated Medical Waste**  
Regulated medical waste is any waste material, which is generated during diagnostic treatment or immunization processes that have the potential of producing disease in healthy humans. This waste includes blood/blood products, tissue, body fluids, specimens, cultures, sharp objects, infectious waste spills, items covered with blood/body fluids and animal wastes.
5. **Hazardous Wastes.**  
Hazardous wastes are wastes that contain specific toxic chemicals or have characteristics, which cause them to be a major risk to human health and/or the environment.
6. **Chemotherapy Waste**  
Chemotherapy waste refers to all waste resulting from chemotherapy treatments, which are administered in the home. Some of it is considered to be hazardous.
7. **Lancet**  
A lancet is a small pointed knife or a surgical instrument with a short, wide, sharp-pointed, two-edged blade. It is used to prick the skin (a finger, foot, ear lobe, etc.) to obtain a small quantity of capillary blood for testing e.g. testing blood sugar levels in individuals who have diabetes.

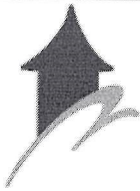
#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

1. All wastes shall be:
  - a. sorted into correct categories at the spot where they are produced;
  - b. placed in proper containers; and,
  - c. kept in separate packaging during collection, storage and transportation to ensure waste material is not released.
2. Hands shall be washed with soap and hot water for 15 seconds after contact with garbage.
3. Soiled bandages, disposable sheets and medical gloves shall be placed in securely fastened plastic bags before being placed in garbage receptacles.

#### **HOUSEHOLD WASTE PROCEDURES**

1. Regular, household wastes shall be handled in accordance with regulations established locally e.g. by the Municipality or Regional District etc.
2. Wastes shall be put into closed, plastic, garbage bags and:
  - a. placed inside hinged-lid, trash containers and taken to the curb; or,
  - b. put into a dumpster; or,



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- c. taken to the local landfill, if there is no garbage pick-up.
- d. No yard wastes shall be placed inside household garbage bags.
- 3. Recyclable materials shall be properly separated, cleaned and placed in recyclable bins.

**HOUSEHOLD MEDICAL WASTE PROCEDURES**

- 1. Household medical waste shall be kept separate from regular household waste.
- 2. Household medical waste shall be placed in heavy-duty, garbage bags, which are securely fastened at the top.
- 3. Medical waste can be placed in regular garbage containers, providing it is bagged and securely fastened and can subsequently be either picked up by a garbage collector or taken, by other means, to a permitted, solid waste landfill.

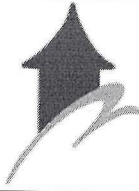
**INFECTIOUS WASTE PROCEDURES**

- 1. All untreated infectious waste shall be placed immediately into appropriate collection bags and containers.
- 2. To package and transport infectious wastes produced in the home:
  - a. put the waste in a rigid/semi-rigid, leak-free container, which is puncture proof;
  - b. ensure the top of the container is securely fastened;
  - c. put the universal, bio-hazard symbol on the container;
  - d. mark the label as either “infectious waste” or “bio-hazard waste”, whether they are infectious or not;
  - e. seal the container; and,
  - f. ensure that the exterior of the container has not been contaminated.
- 3. Reusable containers may be used for waste collection and transportation providing they are rigid, unbreakable, tear resistant and are made of a solid material, which is smooth, easy to clean and rigid.
- 4. Reusable containers, which have been in direct contact with infectious material, shall be disinfected prior to reuse.
- 5. Collection containers for infectious medical wastes (other than sharp objects) shall be lined with disposable infectious waste collection bags.
- 6. Infectious waste collection bags shall be moisture resistant and strong enough to prevent tearing, ripping or breaking.
- 7. Cardboard boxes shall not be used as containers for sharp objects.

**REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE PROCEDURES**

- 1. Personal protective equipment shall be worn when handling materials classified as Regulated Medical Waste.



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2. Regulated medical waste (other than sharp objects) shall be placed in double-bagged, leak proof, heavy duty garbage bags, which are securely fastened at the top to prevent spillage or protrusion of the contents during handling, storage, transport or shipping.
3. Any contaminated containers shall be placed in a second container.
4. The bag shall be either labeled "Bio-hazardous" or color coded in red.
5. The following shall be disposed of as outlined:

urine, feces, secretions, excretions, suction and irrigation fluids	pour down the toilet
body fluids (less than 20 ml)	discard in a puncture proof container
surgical masks, Kleenex and other contaminated items, used by client to prevent spread infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and Hepatitis	dispose of according to the state's regulations
National Occupational Safety & Health (NOSA) certified respiratory devices, worn by employees	follow procedures for household medical waste

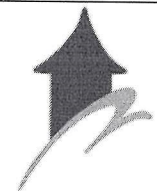
### **CHEMOTHERAPY WASTE PROCEDURES**

1. Place all materials that were used during chemotherapy treatments in a container which has been labeled "*Chemotherapy Waste Only*" e.g. gloves, syringes, IV solution bags and tubing.
2. Keep chemotherapy waste separate from other wastes.
3. A licensed company for disposing of hazardous materials will pick up chemotherapy waste.

### **GUIDELINES**

1. Employees/clients/families must be aware of the potential risks involved in handling infectious wastes and adhere to industry standards of disposal and transport.
2. Most homes generate medical waste, but little or no infectious medical waste.
3. If medical waste has been treated by incineration, autoclaving or an alternative method approved by the solid waste management authority, it can be managed as ordinary solid waste with no special requirements.
4. Policies, practices and techniques for handling household medical waste shall be reviewed regularly.
5. Employees shall be trained on safe procedures for handling household wastes.



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6. Records shall be maintained on employee training for handling household waste and shall include:
  - a. dates when training was given;
  - b. summary on what training was given;
  - c. names and credentials of person(s) providing the training; and,
  - d. names and positions of people attending the training sessions.
7. Training Records are to be kept for 3 years from the date of training.

**REFERENCES**

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4. Municipal, Regional District or other jurisdiction for local waste management/disposal

