

Infectious Waste Guidance for Home Healthcare Providers

What is the Purpose of this Guidance Document?

Any business that generates infectious waste is considered an infectious waste generator and is subject to Ohio's infectious waste regulations. Only infectious wastes generated by an **individual** for the purpose of his/her **own** care or treatment is exempt from the infectious waste regulations. Therefore, a home healthcare provider that generates infectious wastes resulting from patient services is defined as a generator and is subject to Ohio's infectious waste regulations.

An infectious waste generator is classified as a small generator when less than 50 pounds of infectious waste are generated per calendar month and a large generator when 50 pounds or more of infectious waste are generated per calendar month. Home healthcare providers should also reference the guidance document for small generators or large generators of infectious waste for more detailed information regarding proper infectious waste segregation, management, storage, and treatment of infectious wastes generated or disposed of in Ohio.

This guidance document is intended to provide guidance for handling and disposal of infectious wastes unique to home healthcare providers.

COMMON INFECTIOUS WASTES GENERATED IN HOME HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

- Sharp wastes (including, but not limited to hypodermic needles, syringes, and scalpel blades) used in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings
- Waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings
- Human blood specimens and blood products. "Blood products" does not include bandages or disposable gowns that are lightly soiled with blood
- Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious wastes

HANDLING & DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Infectious sharps must be placed in a sharps container. All other categories of infectious waste must be segregated at

the point of generation from the rest of the waste stream. At a minimum, infectious wastes must be placed in separate containers, from other wastes until rendered non-infectious or properly disposed. Small generators may dispose of the infectious waste in the home of the patient **after** weighing with a portable scale, or taking the infectious waste back to a central location for quantification. Large generators must take any infectious waste to the business location and ensure compliance with applicable treatment requirements. Infectious wastes that are transported from a patient's home to a centralized location, are subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation hazardous materials regulations contained in 49 C.F.R. 171 to 49 C.F.R. 180.

Infectious waste that is also a hazardous waste: Any infectious waste or infectious waste mixture that meets the definition of a hazardous waste shall be managed as a hazardous waste. Some vaccines contain thimerosal, a mercury containing preservative, and must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

APPLICABLE RULES

OAC	3745-27-01	3745-27-32	3745-27-35
	3745-27-30	3745-27-33	3745-27-36

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information regarding this document, please contact the Solid Waste Compliance & Inspection Support Unit at (614) 644-2621.

DISCLAIMER

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