REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Medical Waste Laws/Regulations:

The definitions of medical waste, requirements for handling, disposal and tracking are primarily determined by:

Title XIII, Article 13, Public Health Law

Title 15, Article 27, Environmental Conservation Law (DEC)

These laws are respectively implemented through regulations in Part 70 of 10 NYCRR and Part 364 of 6 NYCRR. The laws are enforced by both the DEC and the NYS Department of Labor.

Definition of Medical Waste:

1. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including discarded live and attenuated vaccines.

2. Human pathological waste including tissue and body fluids removed during medical procedures, specimens of body fluids and their container (i.e., drainage systems, suction canisters, urinary catheter bags).

3. Waste human blood and blood products including serum, plasma, and other blood components and their containers. NOTE: The EPA also required that all blood soaked items (saturated, dripping, dried) be included in this waste category.

4. Sharps: These include sharps that have been used in animal or human care including hypodermic needles and syringes, pasteur pipettes, broken glassware, scalpel blades, blood vials, and test tubes. (Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware, such as used slides and cover slips that have come in contact with [potentially] infectious agents).
Non-Regulated Waste:

The following wastes are not considered to be regulated medical waste provided they were not from or in contact with a person who has a highly communicable disease:

- disposable towels
- unsaturated bandages
- sanitary napkins
- gowns and linens
- facial tissues
- cotton swabs
- baby diapers
- tongue depressors
- emesis basins

Non-regulated waste should be placed in plastic bags (NOT RED), sealed, and disposed of with regular College waste.

Medical Waste Handling Requirements:

Any medical waste which meets the criteria for regulated medical waste must be handled in accordance with specific DEC requirements.

1. "Red Bag" packaging: Fluids, fluid containers and other regulated medical wastes (except sharps) must be placed in red, disposable, moisture-proof, rip-resistant bags. Bags must be labeled or pre-printed "infectious" or "regulated medical waste". The bag, and any fluid container placed within the bag, must be labeled with College’s name and address.

2. Sharps packaging: Sharps must be segregated from other regulated medical waste. All discarded sharps must be placed in leak proof, rigid, puncture-resistant containers conspicuously labeled "infectious" or "regulated medical waste". The name and address of the College must be imprinted or affixed to the sharps container.

3. Shipping Containers:
   a. Place an unused red bag into a leakproof, disposable pail, carton, or drum. Into
this lined container, place sealed red bag containing medical waste and sharps container.

b. When ready for off-site disposal, seal red bag used to line the container.

c. Close and tape lid.

Container does not have to be red, but must be conspicuously labeled "regulated medical waste" and must contain the College name and address.

4. Temporary storage: In general, the amount of regulated medical waste generated by the College is minimal. Therefore, the large shipping container can be maintained within a building in a manner and location, which afford protection from the weather and limited public access and exposure, until full. The current location is a designated room in the Health Center or the Science I volatile storage area. Entry to the location must be conspicuously labeled "regulated medical waste".

Smaller packages of sealed, labeled, red-bagged medical waste can be deposited on a daily, weekly, or as-needed basis, until off-site disposal becomes necessary.

5. Medical waste disposal: The College will hire a permitted transporter to transport the waste for off-site disposal. The College will insure the contractor holds a current NYSDEC permit to transport regulated medical waste to a licensed treatment/disposal facility.

This company will:

a. Complete a four-copy medical waste tracking form for each shipment.

b. Upon pick-up, sign one copy and leave it with the designated representative at the Wiegel Health Center.

c. Have the destination facility operator sign the tracking forms.
d. Leave one copy at destination facility and retain one copy.

e. Mail one copy back to the College designee to document completion of the disposal.
The College will:

a. Maintain copies of all tracking forms for at least three years.

b. Complete and submit an annual report to the NYSDEC summarizing the amount of regulated medical waste disposed of, the disposal destinations, and the costs incurred.