

Proper Disposal of Medications and Supplies

TXCH Global HOPE



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Objectives

By the end of this presentation, the participant should be able to:

- Define the term, pharmaceutical waste
- Identify best practices for pharmaceutical waste
- Formulate a plan for disposing pharmaceutical waste in your pharmacy



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Defining Pharmaceutical Waste

- Pharmaceutical waste is any medication which is leftover or unused and must be discarded
 - Whole, part, or residual amounts of medications
- Pharmaceutical waste does NOT include
 - Regular trash
 - Bio-hazardous waste (blood, body fluids, contaminated materials)
 - Controlled substances
 - Sharps
 - IV solutions with no medication added



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Managing Waste

- All disposable items (e.g. syringes, gloves, gowns, needles, excess drug) must be disposed in specifically designated containers
- These containers should meet local/country-specific regulations for hazardous and non-hazardous medical waste
- Disposal of hazardous waste containers will be managed by a waste vendor



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Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste

Environmentally hazardous medications

- Chemotherapy
- Syringes, needles, CSTDs used to prepare chemo
- Other drugs: warfarin, nicotine, physostigmine
- Black containers



Hazardous PPE

Yellow containers
Excludes PPE from arsenic preparation or saturated contaminated PPE (which is black)



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Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste

Aerosols and Inhalers

- Green list items

Corrosives

- Red list items

Oxidizers

- Yellow list items



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Non-Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste

- Needles, broken glass, empty or broken ampoules**
 - Including those used for hazardous medication preparation
- Base IV solutions**
 - NS, D5W, LR
- Non-hazardous medications**
 - Pharmaceuticals (vials and syringes with residual medication) without a waste code
- Empty IV bags, tubing, most medication wrappers**
 - Excludes black bin products (warfarin, etc.)




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Example Waste Poster



Non-Hazardous PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE STREAMS*

- Blood or Bodily Fluids** (Red)
- Needles & Empty Sharps** (Red)
- Maintenance IV Solutions** (Green)
- Non-Hazardous Medications** (Blue)
- Regular Trash** (Grey)

*For Non-Narcotic Waste


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General Overview for PHO Pharmacies


- Yellow or black**
 - Chemotherapy
 - PPE
- Red/sharps (non-hazardous)**
 - Needles (or needles with attached syringes) used to prepared non-chemo drugs
 - Non-chemo ampoules (e.g., promethazine, gentamicin)
- Sink**
 - NS, D5W, LR that needs to be disposed of/drained (empty bag goes in the trash)
- Trash**
 - Paper boxes which contain vials, unit-dose tablets



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What's Next?

- Review the supplemental materials on the Moodle site
 - Drugs by disposal code/color
- Prepare for discussion:
 - What rules and regulations exist in your setting?
 - What challenges or issues do you need to address to improve waste management in your pharmacy?
- Complete the practice questions



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Global HOPE Pharmacy Education

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