

# Harrisburg Area Community College

## Biomedical Waste Standard Operating Procedure

*(This guidance document was created to insure proper compliance with federal, state and local regulations as well as recommendations from the National Institutes of Health and The Center for Disease Control and Prevention)*

### What is considered biomedical waste?

Biohazard waste (infectious waste) is defined as materials of biological origin that are capable of producing an infectious disease in humans or animals and includes at a minimum blood, body fluids, discarded sharps and inoculated culture media. Biohazard waste is composed of two broad categories to include sharps and nonsharps.

Federal, State and Local environmental laws also consider biomedical waste to be specific laboratory waste and medical treatment apparatus such as:

1. ***All sharps (contaminated and uncontaminated)***

- Syringes with/out needles
- Broken glass
- Glass Pipettes
- Specimen tubes, slides

2. ***Human or animal blood, blood-products, body fluids and tissues***

3. ***Cultures, infectious agents and associated biologicals:***

- Used Petri plates containing agars
- Discarded lab specimens
- Discarded live and attenuated vaccines
- Waste from the production of biologicals
- Culture flasks

4. ***Other laboratory wastes including but not limited to:***

- Surgical drapes and gowns
- Protective gloves, disposable lab coats, or masks
- Discarded lab specimen containers
- All microorganisms constructed using rDNA

5. ***All wastes that have been autoclaved***

6. ***Any medical equipment or disposables that have the appearance of medical waste***

7. ***All waste placed within red biohazard bags are considered infectious waste, even if they are autoclaved***

*Everyone who produces, handles, treats, and/or disposes of biohazardous waste is responsible for the proper waste management. By accepting this responsibility regulatory compliance can be assured, and risks for exposure to students faculty and staff can be greatly reduced.*

### Segregation and Packaging of Waste

#### 1. Sharps Waste:

Syringes, scalpels, razors blades and all cutting apparatuses are to be placed in the red needle boxes and must be segregated at the point of use. Sharps containers must be disposed of before they are completely full. All other sharps (broken glass, pastures pipettes, micropipettes, and specimen slides) can be placed in an approved puncture resistant box or a red plastic sharps container. Both containers must have the appropriate biohazardous labels affixed to the outside.

#### 2. Non-Sharps Biohazardous Waste

These wastes must be stored in biohazardous waste containers prior to disposal/decontamination:

- Any biological contaminated material
- Infectious /potentially infectious /rDNA
- Human/Animal/Plant pathogens
- Recombinant DNA
- Human/Primate Blood/Tissue
- Blood Products/Fluids

### Handling and Disposing of Biohazardous Wastes

#### 1. Biomedical waste must be segregated at the point of origin by the generator:

##### Red Bags

- Must pass ASTM 125 drop test
- Closed by twisting and hand tying in a single knot
- Placed within a approved biomedical waste container prior to transportation to biohazardous waste holding area
- Appropriately labeled: generators name, room number, phone number and date of disposal