

# Home Dialysis Waste

## - Information for *Patients*

### *Did you know...*

*In a 2004 survey of NSW material recovery facilities (MRFs), 70% of operators reported problems with the incorrect disposal of peritoneal dialysis waste into council recycling services, particularly fluid bags and tubing.*

*The peritoneal dialysis solution bag **outer envelope** – although typically manufactured from high density polyethylene (HDPE) should NOT be placed into the recycling bin. Outer envelopes should be disposed of in the general waste bin.*



### WHAT IS HOME DIALYSIS WASTE?

Haemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis procedures both generate different waste items. The components of **Peritoneal Dialysis** waste include:



Dialysis fluid bag containing renal waste



Drained solution and waste fluid bags and tubing set



Outer plastic envelope

The following waste management practices are to be followed:

### Do

- ✓ Dispose of renal waste from used fluid bag into sewer.
- ✓ Dispose of both empty fluid bags and tubing set into the general waste bin.
- ✓ Dispose of the outer plastic envelope in the general waste bin.
- ✓ Recycle any clean cardboard and paper.

### Don't

- ✗ Dispose of any peritoneal dialysis waste in the recycling bin.
- ✗ Place any dialysis waste in yellow clinical waste bags for disposal in general waste.



**Did you know....**

No products used in haemodialysis treatment in the home which **have** been in contact with blood or body fluids are suitable for recycling.

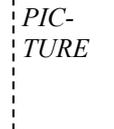
Your local council may not have a recycling service. It is recommended that you check with your local council or Renal Unit!

Disposing of dialysers and bloodlines as general waste is considered to represent no greater hazard to waste workers than other materials present in municipal waste, and to be the most viable method of disposing of this material.

The components of Haemodialysis waste include:



AVF Giving Set



Haemodialysis liquid concentrate containers



Dry powder sodium bicarbonate cartridge and plastic bag



Dialyser and blood line circuit

The following waste management practices are to be followed:

**Do**

- ✓ Rinse empty Haemodialysis concentrate liquid containers and dispose of in the recycling bin.
- ✓ Dispose of dry powder sodium bicarbonate cartridge and plastic bag into the general waste bin.
- ✓ Double-bag dialyser and bloodlines and dispose of as general waste.
- ✓ Recycle any clean cardboard and paper.

**Don't**

- ✗ Dispose of any dialysis waste placed in yellow clinical waste bags in the general waste bin.

Note: Queensland Health staff may at times use yellow clinical waste bags while assisting you with your dialysis. These bags must be returned to a Queensland Health facility for appropriate disposal in accordance with strict environmental protection legislation.



**HOW DO I DISPOSE OF ANY NEEDLES OR "SHARPS"?**

Sharps are objects or devices that have a sharp point, protuberance or cutting edge that is capable of causing a penetrating injury to humans. Haemodialysis generates needles and syringes from injection of local anaesthetic and cannulation (connecting to blood supply).

The following waste management practices are to be followed:

**Do**

- ✓ Immediately dispose of sharps in the yellow sharps container provided to you by Queensland Health and return the container to your nearest Queensland Health facility for appropriate disposal.
- ✓ Ensure the container is not accessible to other persons (i.e. children).

**Don't**

- ✗ Dispose of sharps as individual items in the general waste bin.
- ✗ Dispose of the yellow sharps container in the general waste bin.



Zonal Waste Management Adviser

340 Ross River Road  
Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Phone: (07) 4796 0951

Fax: (07) 4796 0901

Mobile: 0419 545 527

Email: NZ-Waste-Adviser@health.qld.gov.au



### *Did you know....*

*Your local Renal Unit may request that you double-bag any blood-clotted lines and return them to the Unit for disposal. It is recommended that you ask your Renal Unit if you are required to do this!*

*You may find yourself generating a significant amount of general and recyclable waste packaging. If you find you have insufficient space in your general waste or recycling bin, check with your local council as to whether you can receive additional services.*

### WHAT DO I DO WITH MY UNWANTED PHARMACEUTICALS?

Pharmaceutical waste includes restricted drugs that have either expired or are simply no longer required.

Current legislation governs the handling and disposal of pharmaceutical waste from health care facilities, however these requirements do not preside over such wastes generated in a domestic setting.

The following waste management practices are to be followed:

#### **Do**

- ✓ **Dispose of minor quantities of pharmaceutical waste in the general waste bin or return to your nearest Queensland Health facility.**
- ✓ **Dispose of unwanted pharmaceutical waste contained within the fluid bag as general waste or return it to your nearest Queensland Health facility.**
- ✓ **Return your more extensive quantities of pharmaceutical waste to your nearest Queensland Health facility.**

#### **Don't**

- ✗ **Dispose of pharmaceutical waste in a yellow clinical waste bag in the general waste bin.**
- ✗ **Don't pour pharmaceutical waste down the drain.**

