

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Pharmaceutical products are restricted drugs (S4) under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996.

Pharmaceutical waste may arise from:

- Pharmaceuticals that have passed their recommended life;
- Discarded pharmaceuticals due to off specification batches or contaminated packaging;
- Pharmaceuticals no longer required by the hospital;
- Pharmaceuticals returned by patients or discarded by members of the public.

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. Therefore the following general principles are to apply:

Do

- ✓ **Dispose of residual pharmaceutical waste generated at the patient's home as general waste.**
- ✓ **Dispose of unwanted pharmaceutical waste contained within the IV bag generated at the patient's home as general waste.**

Don't

- ✗ **Dispose of pharmaceutical waste generated at the patient's home in a yellow clinical waste bag.**

Remember as the legislation refers to the place of generation of pharmaceutical waste, practitioners providing medical services in a persons home have two options:

1. Dispose of waste through the patients general waste stream; or
2. Place the waste into a sealable, rigid-walled container and return it to the health care facility for appropriate disposal.

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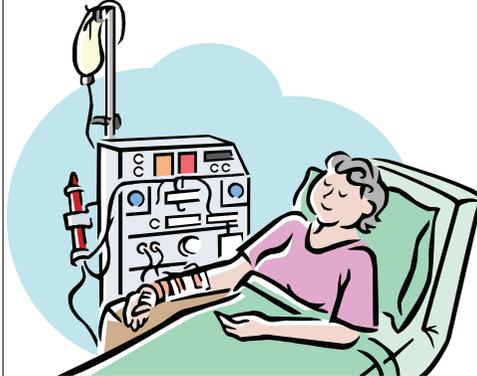
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Waste Less
Save More

Home Dialysis Waste

Information for Patients



Queensland Government
Queensland Health

Tropical Public Health Unit
Environmental Health

Home Dialysis Solid Waste— What to do with it

What is Home Dialysis Waste?

Haemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis procedures both generate different waste items.

The components of *Peritoneal Dialysis* waste include:

- Tubing
- Used fluid bag (containing renal waste)
- Empty fluid bag (contained dialysis)



The following waste management practices are to be applied:

Do

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

Don't

- ✗ Dispose of any dialysis waste generated at home in the council recycling bin.
- ✗ Dispose of any dialysis waste generated at home in a yellow clinical waste bag.

The components of *Haemodialysis* waste include:

- Needles
- Haemodialysis liquid concentrate container



- Dry powder sodium bicarbonate cartridge and plastic bag



- Dialyser (artificial kidney) and bloodlines



The following waste management practices are to be applied:

Do

- ✓ Dispose of empty Haemodialysis concentrate liquid container into the general waste bin.
- ✓ Dispose of dry powder sodium bicarbonate cartridge and plastic bag into the general waste bin.
- ✓ Flush Dialyser and bloodlines with saline, double-bag and dispose of as general waste.
- ✓ Recycle any clean cardboard and paper.

Don't

- ✗ Dispose of any dialysis waste generated at home in the council recycling bin.
- ✗ Dispose of any dialysis waste generated at home in a yellow clinical waste bag.

Note: The yellow clinical waste bags are for clinical waste generated in health care facilities only and must be disposed of in accordance with strict legislation. Clinical waste bags generated from a domestic home and through the general waste stream will ultimately end up on landfill which may lead the public to believe that a local health care facility is inappropriately disposing of clinical waste.

Needles "Sharps" Disposal

Haemodialysis generates needles and syringes from injection of local anaesthetic and cannulation (connecting to blood supply). Haemodialysis patients at home are to follow the following sharps management practices:

Do



- ✓ Dispose of sharps in a puncture resistant container that can be secured with a lid (i.e. coffee jar, milo tin).
- ✓ Ensure the container is inaccessible to other persons (i.e. children).
- ✓ Dispose of container in the general waste bin.

Don't

- ✗ Dispose of sharps as individual items in the general waste bin.
- ✗ Overfill the container as this results in unnecessary needlestick injuries.