

Purpose

This SOP describes the proper procedure for the collection and disposal of biohazardous waste.

Safety Precautions

1. Review the Laboratory Safety Manual and any associated Institutional Biosafety Committee document prior to working with the biohazard.
2. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
3. Work in a certified biosafety cabinet.

Definition

Waste becomes regulated when it contains enough blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) to potentially spread bloodborne pathogens. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines regulated medical waste as follows:

1. Human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids. Urine and feces are not OPIM.
2. Any unfixed human tissue or organ from a human
3. Liquid or semi-liquid blood
4. Contaminated items that would release blood or OPIM in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed
5. Items that are caked with dried blood or OPIM and are capable of releasing these materials during handling. This includes gauze soaked with dried blood that could flake off and other items contaminated with unabsorbed blood, such as blood gloves.
6. Contaminated sharps including needles, syringes with needles attached, scalpels, dental carpules with blood.
7. Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or OPIM.

Disposal Procedures

1. Place materials in a red biohazard bag that is secured in a red biohazard container. The container is supplied with a lid that should be closed when not in use.
2. Place sharp objects in a sharps container.
3. Bag should be loosely packed and not more than three quarters full.
4. Seal the bag with the provided twist tie.
5. Notify the Spokane lab services group (spok.labservices@wsu.edu, 509-358-7621) that the bag is ready to be picked up.