

Ophthalmic Waste Disposal

Bob Wilkes
Optometric Adviser, NHS Sefton
Chairman, Central Mersey LOC

The Legal Position

Section 34 of Environmental Protection Act 1990:

Waste producers have a duty of care:

- To ensure that controlled waste is correctly segregated, stored and disposed of responsibly
- To transfer controlled waste to an authorised person for transport to an authorised waste site

College of Optometrists Guidance

Type of waste	Disposal
Used tissues/ trial contact lenses	General waste (non- infectious*)
Used i-care probes/ Tonopen sheaths	Tiger bag
Used disposable Applanation tips	Tiger bag
Used or out of date minims and fluorets (not inc Chloramphenicol)	Yellow lidded medicines box. Incineration required
Used or out of date Chloromphenicol (hazardous waste)	Purple lidded medicines box. Incineration and hazardous waste note required.

Issues with Tiger bag disposal

- They are huge
- Waste items are small
- Waste may be kept in practice too long
- Landfill is worse environmentally and economically
- Additional work
- Additional contract

Waste Management-suggestion

Type of waste	Disposal
Used tissues/ trial contact lenses	General waste (if not infectious*)
Used i-care probes/Tonopen sheaths	Yellow Medicines box Incineration required
Used disposable Applanation tips	Yellow Medicines box Incineration required
Used or out of date minims and fluorets (Except Chloramphenicol)	Yellow Medicines box Incineration required
Used or out of date Chloromphenicol (hazardous waste)	Separate Medicines box Hazardous waste note required from Waste contractor

What we should be doing?

- Separate clinical waste from more general waste
- Store all clinical waste securely in box
- Store all hazardous waste in separate box from non-hazardous
- Hire suitable waste contractor to remove and dispose of waste properly at appropriate intervals-annual removal may be too infrequent
- Keep appropriate paper records of all loads taken by contractor This is important as will be asked to be evidenced on compliance visit
- Don't take clinical waste away yourself!

Domiciliary Visits

- You are allowed to carry clinical waste created during examination back to practice or registered address, e.g. separate bin bag
- Don't take Yellow Medicines box from practice out on domiciliary unless empty
- Dispose of appropriately, as with usual clinical waste once back at practice or registered address

Permits and Registrations

- Exempt from Hazardous waste producer registration as <500kg. But must keep records and use registered carrier to dispose
- Don't need an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007

Paperwork

- Keep appropriate records
- Simplest method is to keep copies of paperwork from waste contractor
- Transfer notes (non-hazardous waste) 2 years
- Consignment Notes (hazardous waste) 3 years
- Any other paperwork e.g. Returns from destination, load rejection papers etc

Cost Examples

- Costs on next slide only an example and cannot be guaranteed, so individual quote from carrier required
- Dependant on waste carrier
- Average costs quoted, but annual cost varies according to frequency of collection
- Includes cost of boxes and incineration
- Hazardous waste certificates incur extra cost

Cost Examples

Contractor	Yellow Box Per collection	Hazardous waste: Chloromphenicol
Direct Hygiene	£22.00 per service	£15.00 extra, including documentation
Initial	£22.00 per service	£15.00 extra, including documentation
PHS	£25.70 per service	£15.00 extra, including documentation
Wastegone.com	£15.00 per service	£30 per box, including documentation

Contact Details

- Direct Hygiene: 01772 817 314
 - mary.n@directhygiene.com
- Initial: 01942 275 786
 - andrew.neenan@rentokil-initial.com
- PHS: 01204 862 361
 - tracygorton@phs.co.uk
- Wastegone.com: 0845 643 1910
 - www.wastegone.co.uk

Information

Environment Agency:

enquiries@environment-agency.co.uk

Helpline 08708 506 506

College of Optometrists

www.college-optometrists.org

Acknowledgments

- Reproduced by kind permission from Dr Sarah Slade, Optometric Adviser, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan
- Sue Blakeney, Optometric Adviser, College of Optometrists