

Medical Waste Producing Facility Requirements

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Today's Goals

- Provide General Program Overview
- Identify Types of Medical Waste
- Identify Medical Waste Producer Requirements
- Identify Program Initiatives

Medical Waste Regulatory Program (MWRP) Primary Objectives

- To protect the public and healthcare workers from risks of infectious diseases contracted from improper disposal of potentially infectious wastes.
- To protect Michigan's environment from degradation and pollution from improper disposal of medical industry derived plastics, sharps, and contaminants.

Regulatory Authority & Program

- Act 368, Michigan Public Health Code, [Part 138](#), Medical Waste Regulatory Act
- Total of approximately 16,000 registered medical waste producers state-wide
- Program Staff

Medical Waste Producing Facilities

- "Producing facility" means a facility that generates, stores, decontaminates, or incinerates medical waste and includes all of the following:
 - Physician's offices, dental practices, podiatry offices, veterinary practices
 - Mortuaries
 - Nursing homes
 - Hospitals
 - Tattoo/body art facilities
 - Pharmacies
 - Any other facility that stores, generates, decontaminates, or incinerates medical waste

Categories of Medical Waste

- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including laboratory waste, biological production wastes, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, culture dishes, and related devices
- Liquid human and animal waste, including blood and blood products and body fluids, but not including urine or materials stained with blood or body fluids
- Pathological waste, which includes human organs, tissues, body parts other than teeth, products of conception, and fluids removed by trauma or during surgery or autopsy or other medical procedure and not fixed in formaldehyde.
 - Pathological waste excludes fetuses, fetal remains, etc. of a predetermined gestational age
 - Fetuses, fetal remains, etc. were excluded from the definition of pathological waste through a legislative change in the Medical Waste Regulatory Act
- Blood and body fluids are further defined under the medical waste rules
 - Items '**stained with blood or body fluids**' mean a contaminated item that cannot release blood or body fluids in a liquid or semi-liquid state when compressed, or caked and dried blood or body fluids are not capable of being released when handled, making it an unregulated waste
- Sharps includes needles, syringes, scalpels, and intravenous tubing with needles attached
 - MIOSHA Blood Borne Infectious Diseases Standard (Part 554) requires the following to be treated as sharps in accordance with the MWRA:
 - Broken glass
 - Broken capillary tubes
 - Exposed Ends of dental wires

- Contaminated wastes from animals that have been exposed to agents infectious to humans, these being primarily research animals outbreaks of CDC level III and Level IV pathogens under federal jurisdiction
 - Bacillus anthracis, Lassa virus, Ebola, and West Nile are examples of outbreaks requiring EPA, CDC, or DOT-issued directives on disposal
- Does not include medications
- When medications are mixed with medical waste, they must be managed to meet both the hazardous waste, liquid industrial by-product or solid waste regulations that apply as well as the medical waste regulations
- Pharmaceuticals should not be mixed with medical waste as it results in improper disposal if the mixed or dual waste is not handled to meet both the environmental and public health code regulations that apply

Other Agencies Regulating Medical Waste

- DEQ – regulates how generators must regulate their med waste from point of generation to disposal
- EPA – guidelines for land disposal and incineration
- DOT – packaging, labeling, shipping, and transportation
- MIOSHA – handling of bloodborne infection diseases

Medical Waste Producer Requirements

- Certificate of Registration
- Medical Waste Management Plan
- Employee training records
- Proper packaging
- Storage no longer than 90 days
- Shipment records

 Packaging Requirements	
173.24	General Packaging
173.24a	Requirements for all HAZMAT
173.24a(c)	Changes regarding Infectious Substances and mixed contents
173.134(b)	Exceptions for:
173.134(c)	Division 6.2 Packaging Regulated Medical Waste
173.196	Category A Infectious Substance
173.197	Regulated Medical Waste
173.199	Category B Infectious Substance
178.609	6.2 Packaging Tests

Medical Waste Producer Registration

- Facilities that produce any volume of medical waste must register as a medical waste producer under the public health code
- Registrations require renewal every three year
- Renewal applications are sent to facilities automatically
- Registration fees vary between \$50 to \$150 depending upon the facility type
- Initial application and renewal can be completed and paid on-line
- Go to www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste
- Select “Registration and Fee Payment Portal”

Verify a License/Registration

- Go to www.michigan.gov/lara
- Select “Verify a License”
- Select “Hospitals, Hospices, Surgery Centers, Nursing Homes, Substance Abuse ”
- Select “Person” or “Business”
- Enter search criteria
- Select “Search”

Medical Waste Management Plan

- Required of all medical waste producing facilities
- Must list and describe the type(s) of medical waste produced by the facility and method(s) of packaging, storage, treatment, and disposal used for each medical waste type.
- Sample plan is available at www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste
- Employee training & Records
- PPE and universal precautions must be practiced to prevent risk of infection and exposure
- Record of training for all employees handling medical waste at the facility required
- Must be documented in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Plan and made available for at least 3 years

Proper Packaging

- Medical waste must be collected separate from other wastes
- Containers must be rigid, puncture-proof, leak-proof, and labeled with a biohazard symbol
- Medical waste may be stored at a producing facility no longer than 90 days (sharps included)

- Period begins on the date when the container use is initiated
- Shipment Records
- Shipping records documenting medical waste is removed from the facility at least every 90 days
- Minimum of 3 years of records must be maintained

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Current Pilot Program

- 2013 the DEQ Medical Waste Program initiated pilot program with Local Health Department's providing inspection support to reach the 16,000 medical waste producers across the state
- The pilot is near conclusion of the third year
- The pilot has health departments from 23 Michigan counties participating
- We expect to evaluate the pilot results and expansion the program and funding to more efficiently and effectively implement the program

New Program Initiatives

- Convening a stakeholder workgroup to amend the existing statute (enacted in 1990)
- Continuing to recruit and offer assistance in the development of community-based sharps collections programs for residents
- Goal of improving customer service and enhancing overall program efficiency

[Medical Waste Web Page at www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste includes:](http://www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste)

- Medical Waste Directory which identifies what is and is not a medical waste
- Online producer registration and fee payment portal for initial registrations and renewals
- Dental amalgam waste removal systems DEQ Interpretive memo
- List of Medical Waste Disposal Services for Businesses
- List of Sharps Collection Programs by County for Michigan Residents
- Medical Waste Pocket Reference for medical waste producers
- Sample Medical Waste Management Plan
- Prescription Unused Medication Disposal Recommendations
- Approved Alternative Treatment Technologies for Medical Waste
- Home-Generated Sharps Disposal Options Brochure