

Body Art Conference

Medical Waste Regulatory Program

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MWRA History

Enacted in 1990 in response to medical waste washing up on the shores of the great lakes and eastern us coastal states

Defines responsibilities of those who produce, treat, and/or store medical waste

The main purpose is to safeguard public health and the environment by preventing exposure risks

Facilities Regulated Under the MWRA

Physician's Offices, Dental Practices, Podiatry Offices, Veterinary Practices

Mortuaries

Nursing Homes

Hospitals

Tattoo/Body Art Facilities

Pharmacies

Fire/EMS/County Medical Services

Any other facility that stores, generates, decontaminates, or incinerates medical waste unless specifically exempted under the law (agricultural businesses, home health agencies, residential)

Regulated Medical Waste Categories

1. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents
2. Liquid animal waste
3. Sharps
4. Pathological waste
5. Contaminated wastes from research animals



A Special Note on Blood and Body Fluids

Rule 325.1541(D) further defines “stained with blood or body fluids” to mean the contaminated item 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.

In most cases, using an absorbent material sufficient enough to contain the liquid exempts this waste from disposal as a medical waste.



A Special Note on Sharps

Rule 325.1541(E) further defines a “syringe” as one with a needle attached and those parts of a syringe, with or without an attached needle, that are contaminated with a potentially infectious agent. Needles can only be removed in accordance with the MIOSHA standard.

Sharps must be disposed of as a medical waste regardless of whether they have been used or unused.



Some Frequently Asked Questions

- Registrations
- Sharps containers
- Facility Inspections



Inspections: What We Look For

- ✓ **Certificate of Registration as a Medical Waste Producing Facility**
- ✓ **Medical Waste Management Plan**
- ✓ **Shipping Records/Disposal Documentation**
- ✓ **Record of Employee Training**

Pilot Project Details

Inspections through a DEQ/local health department grant agreement from 2014-present: 8-9 LHDs have actively participated.

Inspection approach: educational outreach and compliance assistance.

Other activities include increasing voluntary public sharps collection programs, giving presentations/training, and unregistered facility identification and follow-up.

Expansion of this effort statewide is a goal we are working toward via legislative amendments.

Most Common Violations and Issues

- No certificate of Registration
- Medical Waste Management Plan not available, insufficient, or incomplete
- Storing medical waste (especially sharps containers) in excess of 90 days
- Record of training not available
- Disposal of general trash with medical waste (not technically a violation, but unnecessary and expensive!)

Contact Information

Medical Waste Regulatory Program

Web Site: www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste

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Questions?

