TITLE: BIOHAZARDOUS (INFECTIOUS) WASTE

Scope/Purpose: To ensure biohazard waste is safely managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

DEFINITIONS:

Biohazard waste: Also called infectious waste or biomedical waste, is any waste containing infections material or potentially infectious material.

POLICY:

Waste disposal procedures at BVCAA – Healthpoint are dictated by Texas Department of State Health Services and 25 TAC §§1.131-1.137, “Definition, Treatment and Disposal of Special Waste from Healthcare Related Facilities.”

PROCEDURE:

1. Biohazardous/Infectious Waste materials in HEALTHPOINT ambulatory clinics are identified:

   A. Microbial waste: Laboratory wastes containing infectious agents. Examples are discarded specimen cultures, blood or body fluids known to contain infectious pathogens. Discarded live and attenuated vaccines.

   B. Pathological waste: Laboratory specimens of blood and tissue, foreign/body implantable material such as surgical implanted devices or medication dispensing devices, and materials removed during surgery, biopsy or birth.

   C. Human blood or blood products: Human blood or blood products (such as serum, plasma and other blood components) in liquid or semi-liquid form.

   D. Human body fluids (other potentially infectious fluids): Human body fluids in a liquid or semi-liquid state, including semen, vaginal secretions, synovial fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva from dental procedures as well as cerebral spinal, pleural, pericardial or peritoneal fluids that are visibly contaminated with blood OR are impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

   E. Sharps: Clean OR contaminated objects that can penetrate the skin. Examples of objects considered ‘sharps’ are needles, lancets, pipettes, specimen tubes, blood culture bottles and microscope (specimen) slides and disposable surgery scissors, scalpel blades and certain dental instruments.
2. Staff are trained on hire and re-trained annually on Biohazardous Waste and Infectious Material management.

3. **Management** of Biohazardous Waste and/or Infectious Material occurs through use of:
   A. **PPE** (Personal Protection Equipment) such as gloves, gowns, goggles as necessary, to ensure highest degree of safety possible.
   B. **Puncture Proof Waste Cans** Identified as Biohazard Waste Cans
   C. **Biohazard Red Bags** to line Biohazard Waste Cans and Biohazard Boxes.
   D. **Biohazard Boxes** used to store biohazard trash bags.
   E. **Lab Specimen** bags labeled biohazard.
   F. **Sharps containers**.

4. **Storage and Disposal of Biohazardous and Infectious Waste**
   A. **Sharp objects** used to collect labs (needles, lancets) or sharp objects contaminated with biohazardous/potentially infectious material in the process of collecting labs (pipettes, blood culture tubes, microscope slides) are to be placed in SHARPS containers.
   B. **Sharps containers** are to be sealed and placed in Waste Boxes (Maintained in ‘dirty’ storage closets) whenever fill line is reached (2/3 full).
   C. **Instruments** contaminated with blood or body fluids are to be placed in a designated **metal basin** containing 1 cap of detergent and water in the amount that instruments are covered. Instruments are then cleaned by autoclave process.
   D. **Dressings or bandages saturated with blood or body fluids known to be infectious** are to be placed in **biohazard waste cans** located in each patient clinic exam room. New biohazard liners are to be placed in trash daily. Biohazard bags containing biohazard or infectious material are to be placed in the Waste Box located in the ‘dirty’ storage closet. (Bags when full, should not weigh more than 25 pounds).
   E. **Biohazard Waste Boxes**:
      * Are to be lined with biohazard red bags
      * Biohazard **red bags in waste boxes** are to be closed using a hand knot when the box is full.
      * Boxes must not be full to where lid does not close easily.
      * Additionally, biohazard boxes are to be sealed (taped close) when full.
      * Will be picked up by Steri-Cycle as scheduled by HealthPoint’s Purchasing and Facility Manager.
F. **Vaccines** (microbial waste) that are not administered but drawn up in a syringe are to be placed in SHARPS containers. Vaccines that are expired but in secure container are maintained in area separate from patient use, labeled expired, and either shipped per state directions or given to HealthPoint pharmacy for disposal.

G. **GOWNS and GLOVES** and any material that is **NOT SHARP** and **NOT SATURATED** with blood or other infectious material is to be disposed of in regular waste containers.

H. Urine and feces can be flushed directly into the sewer system.

5. **OSHA** protocols are to be followed. Staff are to wear gloves and adhere to hand sanitizing procedures when handling hazardous materials, red bags, or waste boxes.

6. **Environmental rounds** (performed daily by direct care staff, monthly by the each clinic manager) are utilized to assess risk, safety of the environment and staff compliance with procedures and regulations pertaining to storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, wastes and sharps.

7. **Violations of procedures** and non-compliance with regulatory standards are immediately reported to clinic managers and department managers as appropriate, and corrected.

8. Required documentation, (manifests) is maintained by the Purchasing and Facility Manager.

10. The **adequacy of the Policy** to manage Biohazardous and Infectious Waste is assessed annually.

**RELATED POLICY:**
(Name of any related procedure here)

**REFERENCES:**
(http://www.osha.gov)

**REQUIRED BY:**
(Leave blank if none)

**ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES:**
Regulated Medical Waste Poster
Packaging Procedures Poster
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