



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 HEALTH CARE WASTE IN WESTERN CAPE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SERVICED BY COMPASS MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES [CAPE METRO CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT AND OVERBERG DISTRICT]

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this SOP is to assist Western Cape Government Health (WCGH) facilities in managing the COVID-19 pandemic effectively by describing processes for handling (containerization), storage, transport (collection), treatment and disposal of waste generated in the treatment of patients who are infected with COVID-19.

2. DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

- **No re-usable containers are to be used!!**
- The waste stream generated from isolation units/wards during the care of positive COVID-19 patients shall be treated as isolation waste.
- The waste, including PPE worn by the staff, should be discarded into the designated cardboard boxes fitted **with 2 red liners (double bagged)**.
- The inner bag is to be sealed with a cable tie when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- The second liner must then be cable tied and the box to be closed and sealed with the tape.
- The box shall be clearly marked "**COVID-19**" and is to be taken to the facility's Health Care Risk Waste Central Storage Facility prior to collection by Compass Medical Waste Services.

3. DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

- All sharps waste such as syringes, needles, blades etc. should be discarded in an appropriate size sharps container. The most commonly used is the 5 litre sharps container.
- Seal the sharps container once $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Clearly mark such container "COVID-19".

4. DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

- COVID 19 wards/units shall be issued with a pharmaceutical waste container for the disposal of all pharmaceutical waste:
- No stock must be returned to the pharmacy – all unused stock must be discarded.
- Empty ward stock containers must be discarded into this container.
- Pharmaceutical waste container/s must be sealed when $\frac{3}{4}$ full. The container/s must be clearly marked "COVID-19".
- The sealed and marked containers are to be taken to the Central Storage Facility prior to collection by Compass Medical Waste Services.

5. COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND TREATMENT OF COVID-19 ISOLATION WASTE

The health care facility is to forward an email to saleswc@compass.co.za and KBH.HealthWasteManagement@westerncape.gov.za advising the following:


- a. The number of COVID -19 sharps and other COVID 19 containers to be collected;
 - b. The number of COVID -19 cardboard box sets to be collected;
 - c. The contact person on site;
 - d. The Health Care Facility Name and Compass Medical Waste Services account number;
 - e. Put '**COVID-19 waste collection**' in the subject line of the email.
- On collection a separate waste manifest document shall be made available to the health care facility indicating the volumes of **COVID-19** waste removed.
 - The waste can be collected and transported with the other health care risk waste streams/categories provided it is clearly identified and marked "**COVID-19**".
 - The Health Care Waste Officers or designated representatives at the facility shall witness collection at **all times** of the waste.
 - Collection frequencies will be arranged internally between hospital/clinic representative and Compass Medical Waste Services. It is therefore crucial that COVID-19 isolation waste be routinely monitored during storage.

6. MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 WASTE FOR PATIENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

- The waste stream generated in units during the care of suspected COVID-19 patients shall be handled as health care risk waste.
- The waste shall be safely disposed of in doubled bagged (red liners) using the designated single use box sets and marked "Suspected COVID-19".
- A temporary room or storage area shall be identified to store such waste for "Suspected COVID-19".
- If the patient tests NEGATIVE for COVID-19, then the waste shall be handled as normal/regular health care risk waste (infectious waste) instead of isolation waste.
- If the patient tests POSITIVE for COVID-19, the waste shall be handled as isolation waste and all the other requirements as mentioned above shall be adhered to.

7. TRAINING

- Training of staff on this SOP is essential/mandatory.
- This SOP will also form part of the training program that is provided by Compass Medical Waste Services in all WCGH facilities.
- Training on this interim guideline will ensure preparedness of health care facilities, Compass Medical Waste Services and its staff and all other relevant stakeholders when managing waste generated during the COVID 19 pandemic.


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DATE:

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