

# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## MEDICAL WASTE

Regulated by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) in accordance with Code of Alabama 22-27-1, et. seq. and it's Administrative Code 335-13-1.

**Each medical waste generator must notify ADEM and be assigned an identification number** (Copy of ADEM notification form attached) and shall prepare, maintain and update as necessary a written plan to ensure proper management of medical waste.

**The Medical Waste Management Plan must be kept at the permittee's principal place of business.  
The Medical Waste Management Plan must be made available for inspection or upon request.  
The Medical Waste Management Plan must be updated as needed.**

This plan shall address the following if applicable to the generator:

- (a) The type of medical waste generated;
- (b) Proper segregation, packaging and labeling procedures of untreated medical waste intended for off-site transportation;
- (c) Treatment method to be utilized on-site;
- (d) Transporter of any untreated medical waste transported off-site;
  1. Name, address and telephone number of responsible person.
  2. ADEM permit number.
- (e) Storage facilities utilized both on-site and off-site;
  1. Name, address and telephone number of a responsible person for all off-site storage facilities.
  2. ADEM permit number for all off-site storage facilities.
- (f) All treatment/processing facilities utilized;
  1. Name, address and telephone number of all facilities.
  2. ADEM permit number for all off-site facilities.
- (g) All disposal facilities utilized;
  1. Name of disposal facility as it appears on their permit.
  2. Permittee of disposal facility.
  3. ADEM permit number.
- (h) Frequency medical waste is removed off-site from medical waste generator's facility;
- (i) Training of employees;
  1. Steps that will be taken to minimize the exposure of their employees to infectious agents.
  2. Name of the individual who is responsible for training.

**Medical Waste Generator** -a medical facility or person who produces or generates medical waste. The term includes, but is not limited to hospitals, nursing or convalescent facilities, intermediate care facilities, clinics, dialysis clinics, blood banks, dental offices, surgical clinics, medical buildings, health maintenance organizations, home health agencies, physicians offices, laboratories, emergency medical services, veterinary clinics, research and manufacturing facilities, and funeral homes. In the case where more than one person (e.g. doctors with separate medical practices) is located in the same building, each individual business entity is a separate generator. In no case shall a person be classified as a medical waste generator if those wastes are generated from a single-family residential dwelling by someone other than a health care professional.

**Medical Waste** - medical waste shall mean the following:

1. **Animal Waste** - carcasses and body parts of animals exposed to human infectious agents as a result of the animal being used for the production and/or testing of biologicals and pharmaceuticals or in research. Bulk blood, blood components and potentially infectious body fluids from these animals shall be handled as specified in (b) for human blood and body fluids. All materials discarded from surgical procedures involving these animals which are grossly contaminated with bulk blood, blood components, or body fluids shall be treated as specified in (g) surgical waste.
2. **Blood and Body Fluids** - all human bulk blood, bulk blood components (serum and plasma, for example), and bulk laboratory specimens of blood, tissue, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluid. Precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine or vomitus unless they contain visible blood. Free-flowing material or items saturated to the point of dripping liquids containing visible blood or blood components would be treated/handled as bulk blood and bulk blood components.
3. **Microbiological Waste** - discarded cultures and stocks of human infectious agents and associated microbiologicals; human and animal cell cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; waste from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate and mix cultures. Only those animal vaccines which are potentially infectious to humans (Strain 19 Brucellosis Vaccine, Feline Pneumonitis Vaccine, contagious Eczema Vaccine for Sheep, Newcastle Disease Vaccine, Anthrax Spore Vaccine, and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Vaccine) shall be considered microbiological waste.
4. **Pathological Waste** - all discarded human tissues, organs, and body parts which are removed during surgery, obstetrical procedures, autopsy, laboratory, embalming, or other medical procedures, or traumatic amputation. Extracted teeth are not included in this definition.
5. **Renal Dialysis Waste** - all liquid waste from renal dialysis contaminated with peritoneal fluid or with human blood visible to the human eye. Solid renal dialysis waste is considered medical waste if it is saturated, having the potential to drip or splash regulated blood or body fluids contained in (b) above.
6. **Sharps** - any used or unused discarded article that may cause punctures or cuts and which has been or is intended for use in animal or human medical care, medical research, or in laboratories utilizing microorganisms. Such waste includes, but is not limited to, hypodermic needles, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and syringes (with or without a needle attached). Items listed above that have been removed from their original sterile containers are included in this definition. Glassware, blood vials, pipettes, and similar items are to be handled as sharps if they are contaminated with blood or body fluids.
7. **Surgical Waste** - all materials discarded from surgical procedures which are contaminated with human bulk blood, blood components, or body fluids, including but not limited to, disposable gowns, dressings, sponges, lavage tubes, drainage sets, underpads, and surgical gloves. Discarded surgical material is considered medical waste if it is saturated, having the potential to drip or splash regulated blood or body fluids contained in (b) above. Extracted teeth are not included in this definition.