

Managing Sharps, Pharmaceutical & Hazardous Waste

Destroy or conceal (i.e. black out labels) all Protected Health Information (PHI) before placing containers/bags in waste bin.

Collection: HOSPITALITY SERVICES (24 hours/7 days)

Collection: SAFETY OFFICE (Mondays– Fridays/7 am- 4 pm)

Red Biohazardous Sharps Waste



- Empty Glass vials
- Empty Ampules
- Empty Syringes (including plastic needleless syringes)
- Needles
- Razors
- Scalpels
- Lancets
- Capillary tubes
- Slides
- IV bags, tubing, and syringes containing blood

Empty = If you can't readily pour or drain any liquids from object. Anything else is considered **full or partial**.

Regular Trash = Empty IV bags, tubing and plastic containers, not having sharps and/or containing a biohazardous symbol, can be placed in regular trash. Drain plain IV solutions with electrolytes into the sink, then discard containers in regular trash.

Blue Non-Hazardous



Any non-returnable full or partial non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste including:

- Syringes with and without needles
- IV bags
- Vials
- Tablets & Pills

Empty ONLY non-returnable controlled substances from IV bags or syringes into container.

Witness required to waste controlled substances:

1. Syringes: Push out into container
2. IV bags: cut directly into container
3. Tablets and pills: discard into container

Yellow Trace Hazardous



Contaminated items generated during use of drugs listed on UCSF hazardous drug list (based on NIOSH recommendations):

- Gowns, gloves, masks
- Empty IV bags/bottles
- Empty syringes with and without needles
- Empty drug vials
- IV tubing
- Zip lock bags
- Empty packaging

Discard **ONLY** High-level Precautions PPE waste, soiled diapers and disposable pads in extra large yellow containers/bags.



Black Hazardous Pharmaceutical Sharps Waste (Accumulation start date must be on container- 6 mo limit)



Full or Partial Amounts:

- Syringes with and without needle
- IV bags

1. Bulk Chemotherapy
2. Drugs requiring High-Level Precautions
3. Other Drugs:

- Alcohol solutions
- Colchicine
- Erythromycin (topical)
- All Eye Drops
- HIV Therapy Medications
- Insulin (pens, vials, etc.)
- Permethrin: Nix® and Elimate
- Selenium (Selsun Blue®)
- Seroflurane
- Silver Sulfadiazine

Request disposal and replacement containers: [MCSS Help Desk \(ServiceNow\)](#)

Discard all **full and empty** packaging in the **black container**



- ☠ Nicotine Products (patches, gum and packaging)
- ☠ Physostigmine
- ☠ Warfarin (Coumadin)

Silver Nitrate Sticks



New and Used Silver Nitrate Sticks

Request disposal and replacement containers: [MCSS Help Desk \(ServiceNow\)](#)

Inhalers & Aerosols



Examples:
Albuterol,
Ethyl Chloride

Request disposal: [MCSS Help Desk \(ServiceNow\)](#)

Questions?

Tim Orozco
(415) 476-1480
Tim.orozco@ucsf.edu

Request training and/or this laminated poster through [MCSS Help Desk \(ServiceNow\)](#) at Safety Services



Do Not Over Fill



MCSS Help Desk (ServiceNow)

For disposal of red, blue, and yellow waste containers, submit a request to Hospitality. For disposal of black waste containers and inhalers submit a request to the Safety Office. All requests can be submitted via the [MCSS Help Desk \(ServiceNow\)](#) or call (415) 514-3570 or HELP-0