Pharmaceuticals and Controlled Substances Disposal

Purpose
This procedure specifies the safe and proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and controlled substances. Controlled substances are regulated under the Canadian Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (1996) and the Food and Drugs Act (1985) in accordance with federal guidelines.

Scope
This procedure applies to disposal of Pharmaceuticals and Controlled Substances.

Background
A pharmaceutical drug (pharmaceutical) is any chemical compound used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases or other abnormal conditions. Pharmaceuticals can be non-narcotic or narcotic. Narcotics or hallucinogens affect the central nervous system causing changes in behaviour and often addiction.

A "Controlled Substance" is a drug or therapeutic agent which has been declared by federal law to be illegal for sale or use, but may be dispensed under a physician's prescription. Controlled substances, commonly understood to include (but not limited to) narcotics, are held under strict governmental control. The basis for control and regulation is the danger of addiction, abuse, physical and mental harm (including death), trafficking by illegal means, and dangers from actions of those who have used the substances.

Controlled substances are included in Schedules I-VIII of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (1996, c. 19) and the Schedule under the Narcotic Control Regulations:

- Schedule I
- Schedule II
- Schedule III
- Schedule IV
- Schedule V
- Schedule VI
- Schedule VII
- Schedule VIII

Disposal of controlled substances must comply with the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and Parts G (Controlled Drugs) and J (Restricted Drugs) of the Food and Drug Regulations (C.R.C., c. 870). Health Canada sets the requirements for their disposal. In general, if generators had to obtain a Health Canada permit in order to purchase a controlled substance then a permit is also required to dispose of it.

Procedure
A. Pharmaceuticals (NOT Regulated as Controlled Substance)
The procedure for the disposal of non-narcotic pharmaceutical waste (not regulated as controlled substances) is as follows:

1. Generators must first determine if the pharmaceutical waste is regulated under controlled substances or not regulated.
2. ESF collection strictly applies to pharmaceutical waste that is not ignitable, corrosive, or reactive. Pharmaceutical waste classified as any of the above will be forwarded to a licensed hazardous waste company for disposal as chemical waste.
3. Generators must determine the technical name of the most dangerous substance and must clearly print it on the Biological Waste Disposal Tag.
4. Pharmaceuticals waste failing to comply with any of the above requirements will not be collected.
5. Ensure pharmaceutical drugs are inside a leak-proof glass or plastic container (jar). For more than one container package pharmaceuticals in a cardboard box, like the chemical waste. For large quantities of pharmaceuticals generators can phone ESF at 604-827-5389 to request proper pharmaceutical waste containers (5 gallon white pails).
6. Complete all the required information on the Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red) (shown below), affix the barcode sticker, check the “Pharmaceuticals” box, and fill out all the other requested information. Attach the tag to the container and place for disposal in the designated area.

B. Controlled Substances
The procedure for the disposal of controlled substances (including narcotics) waste is as follows:
1. Obtain an AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN form from the manufacturer, if they will supply these forms, and then return the controlled substance to the manufacturer for credit. There is no need to obtain authorization from Health Canada if this method is used. Keep “Authorization to Return” records of materials that have been returned to the licensed dealer for a period of five years.
2. Alternatively, obtain an AUTHORIZATION FOR DESTRUCTION of the controlled substance from Health Canada.
   • Generators must request the authorization by contacting: Health Canada’s Office of Controlled Substances:
     Destruction Authorization for Controlled Substances (Hospitals and Pharmacies):
     Tel: 613-954-1541, E-mail: national_compliance_section@hc-sc.gc.ca
3. Once authorization is received you will need to “denature” the substances by creating a slurry of the drug with soap and water. Add kitty litter if you have too much liquid. This process must be witnessed by another researcher (record the date/time, the person performing the destruction and the person witnessing it) and keep your records.
4. Contact an ESF Technician at 604-827-5389 and request the proper pharmaceutical waste container (white pail). You will have to provide the ESF Technician with a copy of:
   • Authorization letter
   • Destruction record
5. Place the destructed controlled substances in a leak-proof container. Put a Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red) with generator barcode on the container. Check-off the “Pharmaceutical” waste box and place for disposal. The waste will be shipped out as pharmaceutical waste for incineration.
Biological Waste Disposal Tag

BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL
The University of British Columbia, Environmental Services Facility

Parcel Identification No: B08110000001

GENERATOR TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY

WASTE CONTENT (Please / )

- Uncontaminated Animal Carcasses
- BIOMEDICAL (TDG Class 6.2, 6.1)
  - Anatomical - Human
  - Blood & Body Fluids *
  - Primates **
  - Sharps ***
  - Pharmaceuticals (Non-narcotic)
- BIOHAZARDOUS
  - Pathological
  - Autoclaved Risk Group 1
  - Autoclaved Risk Group 2
  - Autoclaved Risk Group 3 **
- Other ****

NOTES:
* Human or Animal
** Special arrangements must be made for Primates and RG 3 (Contact ESF)
*** Scalpel/razor blades, needles, syringes (no glass)
**** Contact ESF

Office use only:
Weight ____________________________ Kg

a place of mind

Environmental Services Facility (ESF)
Phone 604.822.1285
August 2011