



## Pharmaceuticals & Controlled Drugs Disposal



It is the responsibility of **Principal Investigators** (PI) and waste generators to properly classify, certify or destruct Pharmaceutical waste or Controlled Drugs prior to disposal.

### Purpose

This procedure specifies the safe and proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and controlled drugs through the UBC Environmental Services Facility (ESF) to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation.

### Scope

This procedure applies to disposal of pharmaceuticals and controlled drugs waste generated from research facilities and laboratories at UBC Point Grey campus. ESF will NOT collect pharmaceutical or controlled substances waste that is improperly classified or destructed, or which does not comply with any of the requirements below. Any pharmaceutical waste that is classified as ignitable, corrosive or reactive will be forwarded to a licensed hazardous waste company for disposal as chemical waste.

### 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 central nervous system causing changes in behaviour and often addiction.

A “**Controlled Substance**” is a drug or therapeutic agent that 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 regulated under the Canadian Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) (1996) and the Food and Drugs Act (1985) in accordance with federal guidelines. They are listed in the CDSA Schedules I-IV, Narcotic Control Regulations Schedule and Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) Parts G (Controlled Drugs) and J (Restricted Drugs).

Health Canada sets the requirements for exemptions and disposal. A valid “**Exemption to Use a Controlled Substance for Scientific Purposes**” is required to possess a controlled substance; otherwise, researchers are in contradiction of the Controlled Drug and Substance Act. [[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-concerns/controlled-substances-precursor-chemicals/exemptions.htm](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-concerns/controlled-substances-precursor-chemicals/exemptions.htm)]



Procedure

Contact our **ESF Technicians** for any questions related to the disposal of pharmaceuticals and controlled drugs.



### Pharmaceuticals (NOT regulated as a Controlled Substance)

- ✓ Ensure this waste is non-narcotic pharmaceutical waste (NOT regulated as controlled substances).
- ✓ Ensure pharmaceutical drugs are inside a leak-proof glass or plastic container (jar). For more than one container, package pharmaceuticals in a cardboard box, similar to chemical waste.
  - Please note: Proper pharmaceutical waste containers (5-gallon white pails) available from ESF are used for large quantities of pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ Complete all the required information on the **Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red)** shown below.
- ✓ Affix your waste generator number sticker where indicated.
- ✓ Check the **“Pharmaceuticals (non-narcotic)”** box. Clearly print the technical name of the most dangerous substance on the tag in the “Other” section.
- ✓ Attach the tag to the container and place for disposal in your building’s designated area.



### Controlled Drugs (including Narcotics)

- ✓ Properly segregate controlled drugs (including narcotics) from regular pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ Return controlled substances to the manufacturer if you are able to obtain an “Authorization to Return.” Keep records of materials returned to licensed dealers.
- ✓ Waste generators **MUST “destruct” or “denature”** the controlled substance prior to disposal via ESF.
- ✓ If your research group holds a **valid “Exemption to Use a Controlled Substance for Scientific Purposes,”** proceed with the destruction of the controlled drug.
  - The exemption authorization letter outlines a general destruction policy for the exempted controlled drug.
  - **You are no longer required to obtain an “Authorization for Destruction” from Health Canada.**
- ✓ The method of destruction used must alter or denature the controlled drug in such a way as to make it **non-recoverable and unusable**. One such method is the following:
  - Create a slurry of the drug with soap and water. Add kitty litter if you have too much liquid.
- ✓ Another researcher **MUST witness** the destruction process.
- ✓ Immediately following the destruction, you and the witness are required to sign and print your names on a **joint statement** indicating that you witnessed the destruction and that the controlled drug destroyed has been “altered or denatured to such an extent that its consumption has been rendered impossible or improbable.”
- ✓ Keep and retain for a period of **two years** from the date of the making of the record, the following information included in the statement:



- Name, strength per unit, and quantity of any controlled drug to be destroyed;
- Date of destruction; and
- Reason for destruction.
- ✓ You **MUST** provide ESF with a copy of the **Destruction Record** (witnessed statement).
- ✓ Place the destructed controlled drugs in a proper leak-proof container. Pharmaceutical waste containers (5-gallon white pails) are available from ESF
- ✓ Add a **Biological Waste Disposal Tag (Red)** shown below.
- ✓ Affix your waste generator barcode sticker on the container.
- ✓ Check the “**Controlled drugs (destructed)**” box and place in your waste area for pick-up. This waste will be shipped out by ESF as pharmaceutical waste.



Biological Waste Disposal Tag



**BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL**

The University of British Columbia, Environmental Services Facility

Parcel Identification No:

**BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL**



Parcel Identification No:

**GENERATOR TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY**

AFFIX IDENTIFICATION BARCODE LABEL HERE

**WASTE CONTENT**

Autoclaved Risk Group 1       Autoclaved Risk Group 2

**BIOMEDICAL**

Animal Carcasses Uncontaminated       Animal Carcasses Contaminated  
 Animal Blood & Body Fluids       Sharps  
 Human Anatomical       Pharmaceuticals (non-narcotic)  
 Human Blood & Body Fluids       Controlled drugs (destroyed)\*  
 Primates\*       Contaminated solid waste\*

Other \* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Contact ESF

Office use only:

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Kg



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