

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS
ASSOCIATED WITH POOR HEALTH CARE
WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

- Spread of diseases or infections such as hepatitis B & C, HIV COVID-19 and so forth.
- Needle stick injuries.
- Pollution resulting from poorly operated treatment facilities.
- Illegal dumping.

**SOME GOOD PRACTICES FOR HEALTH CARE
WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

- Continuous awareness, education, information, training and communication on the proper handling, storage, removal and disposal of health care waste.
- Proper or correct colour coding and segregation practices.
- Wearing of PPE when handling and disposal of health care waste.
- Regular auditing, evaluation and monitoring of health care waste by health care facility and health officials (health care waste officer, environmental health practitioner, occupational health and safety control officer).
- Proper book keeping.



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**HEALTH CARE
RISK WASTE
(HCRW)**



WHAT IS HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE (HCRW)?

Is waste that is capable of producing any diseases.

THE CATEGORIES OF HCRW INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Infectious fluids and infectious waste.
- Pathological/ anatomical waste.
- Pharmaceutical waste.
- Chemical waste.
- Waste with a high content of metals.
- Pressurized containers.
- Sharps waste.
- Laboratory waste.
- Genotoxic or cytotoxic waste
- Radioactive waste & Isolation waste.

WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO INCORRECT HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF HEALTH CARE WASTE?

- General public.
- Medical staff: doctors, nurses, sanitary staff and hospital maintenance personnel.
- Workers in support services linked to health care facilities such a laundry and transportation services.
- Workers in waste disposal facilities, including reclaimers.

HEALTH CARE WASTE SOURCES:

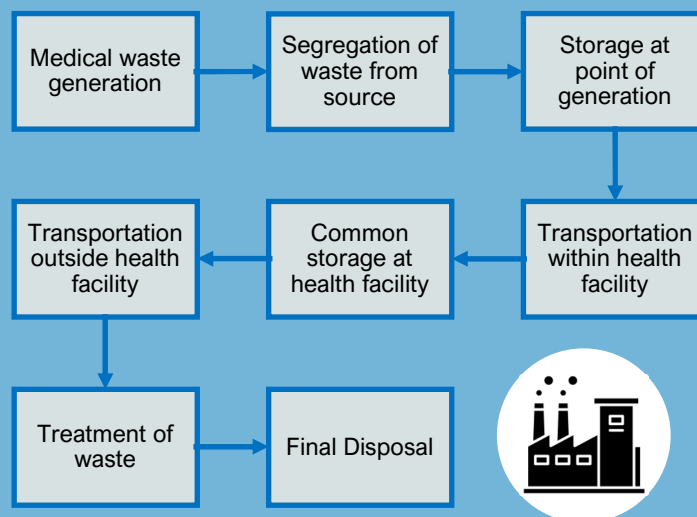
- Major sources are: hospitals, clinics, laboratories, blood banks, mortuaries, community health centers and so forth.
- Minor sources includes: physician offices, dental clinics, pharmacies, etc.

WHAT IS CRADLE TO GRAVE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE WASTE?

The 'cradle to grave' management of health care waste refers to the management of waste right from the point of waste generation to its end or final treatment and disposal.

STEPS IN THE CRADLE TO GRAVE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE WASTE:

- Step 1:** Health care waste minimization.
Step 2: Health care waste generation.
Step 3: Segregation and containerization of waste.
Step 4: Intermediate storage of waste in a health care facility.
Step 5: Internal transport and collection of waste in a health care facility.
Step 6: Centralized storage of waste in health care facility.
Step 7: External transport and collection of waste off side by service provider.
Step 8: Treatment and final disposal of waste by a treatment facility.



ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT:

1. Duty Of Care Principle

Any person or organization that generates waste has a duty to safely dispose off the waste.

2. Polluter Pays Principle

Is the commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

3. Precautionary Principle

One must always assume that waste is hazardous until shown to be safe.