



Waste Management Emergency Plan

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Document Control

Document Version History

This table shows a record of significant changes to the document.

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1. Introduction and Purpose

The primary objective of this Waste Emergency Management Plan is to establish comprehensive procedures for effectively responding to emergencies involving clinical waste or hazardous substances. By delineating clear protocols, the plan aims to minimize health and safety risks to participants, staff, and the broader community. This includes preventing potential infections, injuries, or environmental hazards that may arise from improper handling or accidental exposure to such waste. The plan also serves to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and standards, fostering a safe and responsible service environment.

2. Scope

This plan applies to all personnel, including staff, contractors, and stakeholders, who are involved in the handling, storage, or disposal of waste within Enablepath Support Services. It encompasses all service locations and activities where waste is generated, managed, or disposed of. The plan is designed to be integrated into daily operations, ensuring that every individual understands their role in maintaining a safe environment concerning waste management.

3. Definitions

- Clinical Waste: Waste generated from medical or clinical activities that may pose a risk of infection, such as blood-soiled materials, sharps, and used dressings.
- Hazardous Substances: Materials that can cause harm to health or the environment, including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and biological agents.

4. Emergency Response Procedures

4.1 Identification

Recognising a waste-related emergency promptly is crucial. Signs may include visible spills or leaks of clinical waste or hazardous substances, unusual odors, or reports of exposure incidents involving participants or staff. Upon identification, an immediate assessment should be conducted to determine the type and extent of the waste involved, potential risks to health and safety, and the identification of affected individuals and areas. This swift evaluation aids in implementing appropriate containment and mitigation strategies.



4.2 Immediate Actions

If an emergency is identified, immediate actions must be taken to safeguard individuals and contain the hazard. This includes evacuating the area if necessary, ensuring that evacuation routes are clear and accessible. The affected area should be isolated to prevent further exposure, with warning signs posted to alert others of the hazard. Responders must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, and gowns, following proper procedures for putting on and removing PPE to prevent contamination.

4.3 Notification

Prompt notification is essential in managing waste-related emergencies. The designated Waste Safety Officer or supervisor should be informed immediately, providing details of the incident, including location, type of waste, and individuals involved. If the situation poses immediate danger to health or safety, emergency services should be contacted by dialing 000, offering clear information about the nature of the emergency to facilitate an effective response.

4.4 Containment and Cleanup

Following established protocols is vital for the safe containment and cleanup of waste-related incidents. Utilise appropriate spill kits and cleaning agents to manage the spill, ensuring that contaminated materials are placed in designated containers for clinical or hazardous waste. These containers should be properly labeled and stored correctly for disposal, adhering to organizational procedures and legislative requirements to prevent environmental contamination and health risks.

4.5 Documentation

Accurate documentation of the incident is critical for accountability and continuous improvement. Record details such as the time, location, individuals involved, and actions taken. Complete the organization's incident report form and submit it to management for review. This documentation facilitates analysis of the incident, identification of root causes, and implementation of measures to prevent recurrence.

5. Training and Communication

Regular training ensures that staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage waste safely. Training sessions should cover waste management and emergency response procedures, including hands-on exercises and scenario-based learning. Staff must be educated on the location and proper use of PPE and spill response equipment, with regular inspections and replenishment of supplies as needed. Effective communication channels should be established to disseminate information and updates regarding waste management policies and procedures.



6. Review

To maintain the effectiveness of the Waste Emergency Management Plan, periodic drills should be conducted to test emergency response capabilities. These drills help evaluate performance, identify areas for improvement, and reinforce staff preparedness. The plan should be reviewed and updated annually or following any incident, incorporating lessons learned and changes in regulations or operations. Continuous evaluation ensures that the plan remains current and effective in safeguarding health and safety.