

# MUSC Medical Center Policy Manual

Section	No	Title	
EOC	A-022	Red Bag Usage in the Disposal of Bio-Hazardous/Regulated Waste	
<b>Owner:</b>		Safety & Security Director	
<b>Location/File:</b>		N:\Hospital_Admin\Policies\Admin Policies\A-022 Red Bag	
<b>Date Effective:</b> 10/96	<b>Reviewed:</b> 08/06, 09/09	<b>Revised:</b> 10/96, 09/99, 09/12	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/13/12

## Definition:

**Biohazardous/Regulated Waste** is defined to include all materials that are saturated with any of the following human body fluids:

1. Blood
2. Any body fluid that is visibly bloody
3. Semen
4. Vaginal secretions
5. Cerebrospinal fluid
6. Synovial fluid
7. Pericardial fluid
8. Amniotic fluid
9. Saliva (from dental procedures only)
10. Any body fluid of unknown origin
11. Pleural Fluid
12. Peritoneal Fluid
13. Unfixed Tissue or Organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead).
14. HIV- containing cell or tissue cultures/organ cultures or HBV containing culture medium or other solutions.
15. Blood/organs/or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

**Non-regulated human body fluid waste** includes the following (there must be no visible blood):

1. Urine
2. Feces/Tears
3. Saliva (except from dental procedures)
4. Sweat
5. Gastrointestinal secretions

The non-regulated body fluid waste may be disposed of with the regular hospital waste.

## Policy:

To protect patients, employees, visitors and the environment, the Medical Center will dispose of Biohazardous/Regulated Waste (Red Bags) as required by local, state and federal laws, standards and regulations. (Reference: Occupational Safety and Health Manual (<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/occpsafety/safetymannual.htm>)).

## Procedure:

- A. Place a biohazard bag in the patient's room ONLY if biohazardous waste is being generated.
- B. Maintain a supply of red bags in the cabinet under the sink in each patient's room or treatment area for disposal of biohazardous waste.
- C. Ensure that at least one large biohazard receptacle is available on the unit. The location may be determined by the manager.
- D. In the event a biohazard receptacle is not available when needed, place the biohazard waste in a brown bag and transfer to a biohazard receptacle as soon as feasible.

**Guidelines:** The following is offered as a **GUIDELINE** to assist healthcare workers in the differentiation of "red bag" (regulated) disposal verses "brown bag" (non-regulated) trash. They include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

### **BROWN BAG (NON REGULATED)**

Regular paper products including cups, plates, paper towels, etc.  
Wraps/covers for procedure trays, equipment, dressings  
Specimen cups  
IV tubing (non-bloody)  
IV bags  
Urinary drainage bags (empty) and catheter  
Suction canisters containing non-bloody sputum, saliva, NG aspirate, GI/GU fistula drainage  
NG tubes  
Irrigation syringes  
Diapers (non-bloody)  
Soiled (non-bloody) linen savers/chux  
Non-bloody gloves  
Disposable materials/products out of an isolation room unless it meets definition on Red Bag List

### **RED BAG (REGULATED)**

Intravenous/arterial catheters, (i.e., Jelco, TLC=s, Broviac, Hickman, Ports, PICC, Swans, Art. Lines, dialysis catheters, umbilical catheters)

Any IV tubing containing blood (i.e., Hemodialysis, Vamp, Art. Lines, CAVH, ECMO, blood administration sets, up to point where blood was present)  
 Dressings saturated with blood or serous drainage  
 Suction containers containing blood/bloody fluids  
 Obstetrical pads (OB and GYN surgery only)  
 Bloody gloves  
 Bloody linen savers/chux  
 Bloody diapers  
 Chemotherapy diapers/pads or 48 hours after chemotherapy  
 Peritoneal drainage bags-empty in toilet first  
 Pleuravac  
 Closed wound drainage system-empty first (i.e., Hamovac, JP, J-Vac)  
 Ventriculostomy drainage tubes/bag/bottles  
 Autotransfusers  
 Paracentesis/thoracentesis drainage tubes/bag/bottles

**SHARP CONTAINERS (REGULATED)**

Syringes with needles  
 IV Cannulas  
 Ampules  
 Guide wires  
 Introducers  
 Trocars  
 Sharp dental instruments  
 Butterfly needles  
 Suture needles  
 Scalpels  
 Pipettes  
 Any other sharp items used in laboratories

**RED BAG USAGE IN THE DISPOSAL**

\*Sharps Container only needs to be placed in a red bag prior to placement into puncture container ONLY IF LEAKAGE IS ANTICIPATED.

**Approvals:**

<b>As Required</b>	<b>Date</b>
List Hospital Committee(s): EOC	09/12
Ethics Committee	
Accreditation Review	
Legal Review	
Administration/Operations	
Medical Staff Executive Committee	
Governing Body	

**Distribution:**

<b>Policy Applies to:</b>	Physicians (Y/N):	Nursing (Y/N):
	Other Clinical Staff (Specify):	Other Staff (Specify):
<b>Educational Plan</b>		
<b>Required Competencies</b>		