

SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTE

2020-21



Vista Care Solutions Ltd trading as Sunlight Care Newham. Registered in England. Company No: 11353031.
Registered Office: 3-9 Balaam Street, London, E13 8EB

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AUTHOR: SHAK HABIB
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Mr Shak Habib

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SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTE

Introduction

Sunlight Care will ensure that all waste is safely stored and then safely disposed of. Sunlight Care will follow the guidelines set by the Local Authority. It is aware of and will comply with its legal obligations.

Sunlight Care recognises that the safe disposal of all waste by those involved in the handling, transporting or processing of it, is an essential part of health and safety and general good hygiene.

Sunlight Care acknowledges it produces waste and is required to ensure that it deals with that waste in an environmentally acceptable way that is compliant with the law. It is therefore the policy of Sunlight Care to minimise and control any risks caused by the disposal of waste generated by its activities.

Clinical Waste

The aim of a safe disposal system of clinical waste is to ensure that all clinical waste materials are removed from their point of origin at regular intervals and transported securely to an appropriate place for safe disposal by incineration.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it the responsibility of Sunlight Care to ensure the safe disposal of clinical waste from their premises. Failure to abide by the act can lead to prosecution.

Clinical waste includes:

- human tissue
- bodily fluids and waste
- disposable surgical equipment, gloves and aprons
- soiled dressings and other contaminated waste
- incontinence pads.

This Care Home produces clinical or hazardous waste, and it has a duty of care to:

- keep waste securely contained, and prevent its escape or unauthorised removal
- ensure it is adequately contained and packed for safe transport
- label the waste clearly to identify its contents and point of origin
- transfer the waste only to a licensed contractor authorised to transport that type of waste
- describe the waste (on the appropriate forms) in sufficient detail that subsequent carriers and disposers can dispose of it safely
- take reasonable steps to check that those providing or removing waste are acting properly and within the law.

Sunlight Care will retain written records for at least three years after disposal of the waste.

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Sunlight Care expects all staff to adhere to the following policy on the disposal of clinical waste:

1. All clinical waste should be disposed of in sealed yellow plastic sacks.
2. Non-clinical waste can be safely disposed of in normal black plastic bags.
3. On no account should clinical waste be disposed of within standard domestic waste sacks.
4. The yellow clinical waste bags are used in pedal bins to prevent unnecessary hand contact and these will be provided in all appropriate areas where clinical waste is generated.
5. Sacks should never be filled more than three-quarters full and should be removed and sealed by staff wearing non-sterile gloves.
6. Sealed sacks should be handled by the tied neck only and should be handled with care. On no account should sacks be thrown or dropped.
7. Each sealed sack should be clearly labelled with Sunlight Care's details.
8. Sealed and labelled sacks should be collected by an authorised collector only and, while awaiting collection, full bags should be stored safely and securely away from service users, visitors, the general public, animals and pests.
9. A Waste Transfer Note should be completed and a copy kept in the records of Sunlight Care.

Waste Medication and Pharmaceutical Products

Out-of-date or unused drugs or other waste pharmaceutical products must be disposed of via a licensed waste handler along with other clinical waste.

Out-of-date or unused drugs or other waste pharmaceutical products should be disposed of by using the purpose-built secure container provided by the contracted waste handler.

Out-of-date or unused drugs or other waste pharmaceutical products should never be disposed of with normal waste, put down toilets or poured away in sinks.

Sharps

Sharps, used needles and broken glass, should be disposed of in sealed purpose-built sharps containers in accordance with Sunlight Care's sharps policy and procedure and collected by authorised waste collectors.

Under the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005, sharps that contain waste that is either cytotoxic or cytostatic must be disposed of into a designated cytotoxic or cytostatic plastic container and clearly marked with the appropriate label.

On no account should sharps be disposed of within standard clinical waste or within standard domestic waste.

The Collection of Clinical Waste

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it is the responsibility of Sunlight Care to ensure that services contracted to collect clinical waste are properly licensed to do so and ensure the safe disposal of its clinical waste. Failure to do this may lead to prosecution. The carrier must be registered with the Environment Agency to carry the waste.

On no account should another collection service be contracted without the express authority of Sunlight Care management.

Infection Control Training

All new staff will be instructed to read the policy on Infection Control and the disposal of waste as part of their induction process. Existing staff will be offered training covering basic information about infection control. In-house training sessions will be conducted at least annually, and all relevant staff should attend.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in conjunction with the local authority waste management officer and with the authorised waste carrier.



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