

HOME CARE WASTE DISPOSAL

Alberta Health Services (AHS) Community Based Services (CBS) provide health care services to patients in home care settings. The nature of these services generates waste streams which require proper separation and disposal. Home care waste disposal differs than disposal in AHS facilities. This brochure will help guide the waste disposal decisions that you make as health care provider in a home care setting.

WASTE SEGREGATION

AHS CBS shall ensure waste generated within the client's home is disposed of safely and appropriately. Generally, waste generated within the client's home and/or community health care setting is no more hazardous than general household waste and should be disposed of accordingly.

CBS staff as part of their roles often deal with the following waste categories:

- General waste
- Medication waste
- Sharps waste
- Bodily fluid waste
- Known hazard medication/cytotoxic waste



ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES WASTE MANAGEMENT

AHS is committed to responsible and sustainable Waste Management and recognizes the importance of developing an effective and integrated Waste Management System to:

- Reduce our impact on the environment;
- Promote safe practices to protect patients, residents, clients, employees, physicians, volunteers, the public and contractors from waste related hazards;
- Meet or exceed the requirements of all applicable legislation and recognized industry practice;
- Demonstrate accountability and efficient use of health resources by containing or reducing costs; and
- Work towards becoming a leader in waste management.

AHS will work collaboratively with all internal and external stakeholders to improve the system on a continual basis.

If as a resident you have any questions regarding waste disposal in your home, please consult with your home care provider.

For the complete Community Based Services Waste Disposal Guideline please visit the [Waste Management Insite Page](#).

Community Based Services (Home Care) Waste Disposal





Why is waste disposed of differently depending whether in an AHS facility or a patient's home?

Waste generated in an AHS facility is sometimes disposed of differently than in a home care setting due to the large volumes of waste that are produced on site. Where a small amount of a particular waste type can easily be disposed into a waste stream in a home care setting, the large amounts of that same waste type produced at a health care facility is too burdensome or costly to be disposed in the same fashion. It is therefore required to be disposed differently. In addition, waste disposal in a home care setting is dependent on the local waste disposal regulations.

Disposing of waste differently within a patient's home than within an AHS facility does not necessarily mean that you are disposing of the waste improperly.

Community Based Services (Home Care) Waste Disposal

Type	Examples		Disposal
General Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suction and urinary catheters Diapers (incontinence and/or other incontinence products) Hemodialysis tubing and filter or peritoneal tubing and bag not grossly contaminated with blood. Procedure trays Gloves Masks Dressings 		Double bag and securely tie general waste before setting out for municipal waste collection. Do not include sharps or medications.
Medication Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any medication containers with liquid residue Ampoules Tubes Pills Inhalers Vials Vaccines 		Place medication waste into a sealable container and bring to a local pharmacy or identified drop off location for disposal. Please consult with your local pharmacy for appropriate container types.
Sharps Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suture needles Scalpel blades Insulin pen needles IV spikes and needles Syringes Lancets Needles 		Bring sharps waste to a local pharmacy or identified drop off location for disposal. Please consult with your local pharmacy for appropriate container types.
Bodily Fluid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood PleurX Drainage System Urine and Feces Vomit 		Bodily fluid waste is to be flushed down the drain to either the municipal or private sewer system.
Known Hazard Medication/ Cytotoxic Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty vials, ampoules, IV bags, syringes, needles, tubing etc, contaminated with known hazard medications, chemotherapy substances or other cytotoxic medications. Items that have been contaminated with blood and body fluids, including human waste from patients receiving known hazard/cytotoxic medications (during precautionary period). 		Double bag and securely tie before setting out for municipal waste collection in all zones. Do not include sharps or non-hazardous medications. If during precautionary period and being transported from the patient's home, place waste into a red cytotoxic waste container and bring to a local pharmacy or identified drop off location for disposal. Please consult with your local pharmacy for proper disposal unless otherwise directed.