

Cumberland Heights Foundation, Inc.
Environment of Care Plans
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan

The Environment of Care Plans - Introduction to EOC Plans, including all defined terms, is incorporated herein by reference.

Purpose

To identify and control the use, storage, and handling of hazardous materials and wastes in an effort to minimize the risk of improper disposal and unsafe use by patients, staff, and visitors.

Scope

All Cumberland Heights' physical locations, facilities, buildings, patients, staff and visitors.

Objectives

- Maintain compliance with applicable standards and regulations.
- Manage the storage of chemicals, hazardous and/or flammable materials.
- Manage the disposal of sharps and other biologically hazardous wastes.

Background

In that Cumberland Heights' facilities and programs are not hospital based, they do not utilize laboratory chemicals, radioactive substances, or anesthesia gasses, nor do they generate significant quantities of biologically hazardous wastes.

All of Cumberland Heights' facilities use cleaning compounds, chemicals used in building maintenance operations, paints, fuels and other materials that require care in handling and storage. In addition, the residential facility uses laundry solutions.

Although the programs are not hospital based, the residential facility houses a 32-bed medical unit that generates small quantities of biological waste (in the form of bandages, used syringes, etc). In addition, the medical unit and outpatient facilities collect specimens for analysis by outside laboratories and in so doing generate small quantities of biological waste.

Authority

Environment of Care Officer

As described in the Introduction to EOC the Plans, the Executive Director has named the Director of Support Services as the organization's ECO. In so doing he/she has been granted the responsibility and authority to implement the Hazardous Material and Waste Management Plan. (See also: ECO Appointment and the Immediate Threat to Life and/or Property Policy in the Introduction to the EOC Plans)

Environment of Care Committee

The Committee shall provide oversight with regards to the operation of this Plan. As its Chairperson, the ECO shall bring matters to the Committee on an as needed basis. (See also: Environment of Care Committee in the Introduction to the EOC Plans)

MSDS Program

The bulk purchases of all cleaning solutions, laundry chemicals, and chemicals routinely used for facility and grounds maintenance are accompanied by Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Maintaining the MSDS sheets is the responsibility of the Director of Support Services. A master file of the MSDS sheets is kept in the Support Services department office and a duplicate set is maintained at the River Road Medical Unit.

Staff working in maintenance and housekeeping functions receives training in the MSDS program. All such training is documented.

Vendors for cleaning and maintenance chemicals are selected, in part, for the thoroughness of their safety and hazard information.

Flammable Materials

The use of flammable liquids and gasses is minimized to the extent possible; however, it is recognized that the occasional use of flammable paints, solvents, adhesives and other chemicals is necessary for the maintenance of the physical plant.

Upon completion of painting or other procedures requiring the use of flammable solvents, the flammable materials are removed from the building or stored in a UL® approved flammable material storage cabinet, or disposed of in accordance with applicable safety and environmental regulations.

Use and storage of gasoline and diesel fuel is limited to areas intended for the use and storage of grounds equipment. At no time shall gasoline or diesel fuel be brought into or stored in a residential building.

The use of Sterno® type fuels is limited to the use by the Dietary Department and then only during special events and power failures. The use of such fuel is limited to those instances when the Dietary staff can directly monitor its use. Products are stored in the Dietary Department in accordance with the manufactures guidelines. At no time shall Sterno® type fuels or charcoal lighter fluid be brought into or stored in a residential building.

Storage

- Chemicals are stored in quantities that do not pose an undue hazard.
- The Support Services building, which contains many of the chemicals, is locked when the building is not occupied.
- The Support Services building houses a UL® approved flammable materials storage cabinet that is used for the storage of such materials.
- Particular care is taken in the use and storage of chemicals that could be misused as inhalants by the Organization's patients.

Medical Waste

Incidental amounts of medical waste are generated by the Medical Unit in the routine distribution of medications, bandaging, treatment of minor injuries, administration of TB tests and the collection of specimens for analysis by an outside clinical laboratory.

Incidental amounts of medical waste are generated by the outpatient units in the course of collecting specimens for analysis by an outside clinical laboratory.

All biological wastes are disposed of separately from regular waste and are placed in a specially designed red plastic bag labeled to indicate the contents are biological waste.

Medical "sharps", such as needles, are placed in hard plastic containers specifically designed for the purpose of disposing of medical sharps.

These items are disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations utilizing a vendor licensed for the disposal of medical waste.

Bloodborne Pathogens

“Spill kits” with personal protective equipment and supplies are available in the medical unit to clean up blood spills in accordance with the Blood Borne Pathogen Policy. Spills are reported as incidents and reviewed by the Quality Management Office and the Safety Committee.

Special Orientation and Education

Nursing staff are assessed to verify that they have an advanced competency in working with bloodborne pathogens.

Maintenance and housekeeping staff training includes the MSDS program as well as proper use of the chemicals used by the Organization.

Supporting Documents:

Environment of Care Plans – Introduction to All Plans

Environment of Care Plans – Emergency Management Plan

Material Data Safety Sheets

Contract for Disposal of Medical Waste

Agreement for Disposal of Fluorescent Lamps and Battery Disposal

Supporting Policies and Procedures:

Blood Borne Pathogen Policy and Procedures

Medical Waste Disposal

Biohazard Plan

Hazardous Materials