

# POLICY MANUAL

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**Subject:** Infectious Waste Management

**Effective Date:** 1/91

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**Initiated By:** Cinde Stewart  
Associate Clinical Director

**Approved By:** William C. Anderson  
Medical Director

**Review Dates:** 1/93 CS; 1/94 NC; 2/95 CSF;  
2/97 CSF, 12/06 JH; 11/08 NC; 7/11 NC;  
10/12 NC, 10/13 NC, 11/15 NC

**Revision Dates:** 2/99 CSF; 5/05 JL, 11/14 NC

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## POLICY:

Cumberland Heights' follows the CDC definitions and recommendations regarding infectious waste delineated in the document "Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections," incorporated herein in its entirety by reference. A contract is maintained with an outside agency for disposal of all infectious waste material in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Infectious wastes are defined as microbiology laboratory wastes, blood and blood products, any items contaminated with blood or body fluids, and sharp items, particularly needles. In addition, other items from care of isolation patients may be considered infectious, depending on the type of disease and isolation required.
2. Personnel involved in the handling and disposal of infectious waste are oriented to the potential health and safety hazards and trained in the approved handling and disposal methods. These employees review this annually as part of the Blood Borne Pathogens in-service. Specifically,
  - a) needles and other sharps are disposed of in red puncture resistant containers marked with the bio-hazardous symbol, available in the nursing station, laboratory, admissions nurse's office;
  - b) any material containing blood or body fluid (i.e. bandages, urine specimen containers, alcohol wipes, etc.) are disposed of in waste containers with red garbage bags marked with the bio-hazardous symbol, available in the nursing station, lab area, and bathroom areas where urine drug specimens are collected;
  - c) contaminated laundry is placed in red garbage bags marked with the bio-hazardous symbol and sent to an outside laundry for processing; and
  - d) full sharps containers and red garbage bags are placed in boxes with the bio-hazardous symbol for collection by the contract agency.
3. The contract waste management agency is responsible for regular pickup of infectious waste material, as well as disposing of it in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.