

How to Dispose of Your Medical Waste

You are responsible for disposing of medical waste which includes:

- Sharps and Needles
- Contaminated Solid Wastes such as bandages, dressings and tubing
- Chemotherapy Medications & Supplies
- Medications including Narcotics

Please follow the instructions contained in this pamphlet to protect yourself, your caregivers and the environment.

Sharps and Needles

Any object that could break, cut or puncture the skin is considered a "sharp". This includes needles, needles with syringes attached, lancets, vials (intact or broken) and blades.

Disposal of Sharps

- The safest way to dispose of sharps is to use a special biomedical/sharp waste container.
- Several pharmacies participate in the Orange Drop program and accept approved sharp containers. Some pharmacies may request that you use the container from their pharmacy. When the container is full, it must be returned to the pharmacy where it will then be transported to a government approved facility for disposal. Contact your local pharmacy for further information. To find a nearby pharmacy that participates in the Ontario Orange Drop program: <http://www.makethedrop.ca/> and enter your postal code OR contact the CCAC who will assist you in finding the closest pharmacy.
- Do NOT put sharps containers into regular household garbage or blue boxes.

Contaminated Solid Waste

Any products soiled with blood or bodily fluids such as dressings, gauze, bandages, swabs, catheter tubing, intravenous bags and tubing (Needles removed) must be disposed appropriately.

Disposal of Contaminated Solid Waste

- Dispose of these products in a plastic bag and tie bag at the top. If the first bag is visibly soiled, double bag the items and place them with your regular household garbage.
- Remove and dispose of tubing from pump before returning pump to supplier.

Chemotherapy medications & related supplies

Chemotherapy medications and any supplies which have come into contact with the chemotherapy medication are considered contaminated. This includes intravenous tubing, needles, syringes and dressing supplies.

Disposal of Contaminated Wastes

Chemotherapy medications and related contaminated supplies must be disposed of using the biomedical waste container which comes with your CCAC medical supplies.

When your container is full, please advise the visit nurse. The nurse will complete a request for the pickup of the waste container which will then be transported to a government approved facility for disposal.

Do **NOT** put this type of biomedical waste into regular household garbage for pick up.

NOTE: *It is important to always wash your hands after touching contaminated wastes. Wash vigorously with soap, water and lots of friction.*

Medications including Narcotics

Unused or out-dated medications must be returned to your local pharmacy.

Disposal of Medications

- Some pharmacies may request that you use the container from their pharmacy. Contact your local pharmacy for further information. To find a nearby pharmacy that participates in the Ontario Orange Drop program: <http://www.makethedrop.ca/> and enter your postal code OR contact the CCAC who will assist you in finding the closest pharmacy.
- Do NOT flush medications down the toilet.

Information in this pamphlet is intended to help clients and their caregivers protect themselves, others and the environment from hazardous or infectious medical waste. Although reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, it is not warranted and is subject to changes in law or regulation.

Contact us at
310-CCAC (2222) or
visit our web site

www.champlain.ccac-ont.ca

www.champlainhealthline.ca