Objective:

Caledon Community Services (CCS) is committed to safe disposal of all sharps and the ongoing evaluation of newly safety engineered products that will reduce staff exposure to sharps and parenteral or percutaneous exposure to a needle or other sharp instrument contaminated with blood or body fluids can lead to blood borne infections such as Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

All biomedical waste is segregated and disposed of in a manner that is safe for patients and health care providers and in compliance with the CCS policies, government regulations and legislation.

All CCS employees disposing of biomedical waste must ensure that the waste collection container they are depositing waste into is appropriately labelled and colour coded as specified in this policy and is not filled beyond capacity or in a manner that compromises the safety of persons handling the container.

Definitions:

Biomedical Waste:
Contaminated, infectious waste from a health care setting that requires treatment prior to disposal in landfill sites or sanitary sewer systems.

Biomedical waste includes:

- human anatomical waste;
- human and animal cultures or specimens (excluding urine and faeces);
- human liquid blood and blood products;
- items contaminated with blood or blood products that would release liquid or semi-liquid blood if compressed;
- body fluids visibly contaminated with blood;
- body fluids removed in the course of surgery, treatment or for diagnosis (excluding urine and faeces); sharps;
- broken glass which has come into contact with blood or body fluid.
Policy/Procedure - Disposal of Sharp Sharps/Containers/Waste Disposal

**Sharps Waste**
- All sharps (e.g., syringes, lancets, needles, scalpel blades, suture needles)
- All microscope glass slides
- Broken glass or other materials that are capable of causing punctures or cuts and that have come into contact with human blood or body fluid
- Liquid biomedical waste including liquid blood and blood products and other body fluid (excluding urine & faeces unless visibly contaminated with blood)

**Procedure:** All waste shall be segregated at the point of generation, contained in packaging that holds the contents until the point of disposal and disposed of in a manner that is practical and efficient, yet minimizes hazards.

1) Handling and Disposal of all Sharps:
   a. safety-engineered needles and medical devices shall be used
   b. the user of the sharp must immediately discard the used sharp into the sharps container
      i. Educate staff regarding the risks associated with unsafe procedures such as recapping.
   c. never recap, bend, or break needles
   d. never reach into waste or sharps containers
   e. provide rigid, puncture-resistant sharps containers at or near the point-of-use for disposal of sharps
   f. replace sharps containers when full
      i. do not overfill
   g. If an injury occurs with a contaminated sharp, the employee must follow the facility policy and procedure regarding exposure to blood and body fluids and complete a critical incident report and/or WSIB form. Please refer to the accident/injury policy and procedures for Caledon Community Services

**Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) every time you are handling medical waste**

1) **Segregation, Collection & Labelling**
   All the waste is stored in the dirty utility room closet and is separated into appropriate containers and ready for pick up when full.
Policy/Procedure - Disposal of Sharp Sharps/Containers/Waste Disposal

a) Biomedical Sharps Waste

- Place biomedical sharps waste in appropriately colour-coded, e.g., yellow, puncture-resistant sharps containers with the universal biohazard symbol and the words

Full biomedical sharps containers may be placed in yellow containers, as appropriate, only when the sharps container is properly closed, sealed and not overfilled (do not leave full sealed sharps containers on the floors of the utility rooms)

Transportation of Biomedical Waste Within the Clinic

1. Clinic Coordinator collects, stores, and packages for removal off-site all yellow biomedical sharps waste and containers in accordance with the CCS policies.
2. All sharps containers will be securely closed and will then be placed in assigned cardboard box.
3. Sharps Disposal Company (DANIELS) 1 905-793-2966 will be called by Clinic Coordinator for pick up.
4. The Clinic Coordinator will replace the biomedical sharps waste container in the patient exam rooms.

Waste Disposal:

Purpose: proper management of waste and contaminated waste will be disposed of properly following provincial regulations and local bylaws.

Procedures:

- Puncture-resistant, leak-proof sharps containers are located in every patient-care area (e.g., exam room)
- All sharps are disposed of in the designated sharps container; do not bend, recap, or break used syringe needles before discarding them into the container
Policy/Procedure - Disposal of Sharp Sharps/Containers/Waste Disposal

Â Filled sharps containers are disposed of in accordance with provincial regulated medical waste rules
Â Regular trash and regulated medical waste (e.g., biohazardous material and chemical hazardous waste, including antineoplastic drugs) are disposed of in their designated containers
Â All trash and waste containers are emptied at least weekly by designated personnel and immediately after a specialists' clinic day
Â Wear appropriate PPE
Â Handle, transport, and dispose regulated waste, including and hazardous drugs, in accordance with provincial and local regulations

References:
