

Disposal of Clinical /Healthcare Waste generated in a patient's home.

This document is intended as a reference source for Health Care Professionals in primary care. It may also be useful to patients and carers for information.

The guidance covers the disposal of healthcare/clinical waste (including cytotoxic) generated in a patients' home as a result of a patient treating themselves. This waste is considered to belong to the patient and they are responsible for the disposal of this waste. Waste arising from administration by a healthcare professional should be disposed of by following the standard procedures of the provider organisation.

Healthcare/clinical waste includes:

- Medicines
- Non- hazardous clinical waste
- Hazardous clinical waste
- Sharps

Medicines (excluding sharps)

Unwanted and out of date medicines can be taken to the local pharmacy. This includes inhalers, both used and unused, many of which contain greenhouse gases. Inhalers returned to pharmacies for safe disposal can be disposed of with other medicines waste. This is thermally treated to destroy the greenhouse gases. Further information regarding the disposal of medicines at local pharmacies, can be found on the PSNC website [Disposal of unwanted medicines : PSNC Main site](#) Medicines should NOT be disposed of with general household waste or via the drainage system. See local borough/council information regarding recycling of packaging and containers.

Non-hazardous clinical waste

Healthcare waste that is not hazardous or infectious can be put in your normal rubbish bin. This includes:

- dressings and bandages
- incontinence pads
- sanitary products
- stoma bags (emptied)
- catheter waste (after contents has been disposed of in a toilet)
- 'peg' or stomach feeding equipment
- home dialysis waste (empty saline or glucose IV bags and tubing)

You may wish to double bag the waste before disposal. If you have an infectious illness or are undergoing treatment with cytotoxic or cytostatic drugs, such as chemotherapy, then the items listed above may be hazardous and need to be collected separately as hazardous clinical waste

Hazardous clinical waste

Hazardous clinical waste should NOT be disposed of in the household rubbish bin. This may include swabs and wound dressings/bandages that are contaminated with infectious or hazardous substances, wound vacuum drains or pumps and home dialysis waste (except empty saline or glucose IV bags, which can go in your rubbish bin)

You will need to dispose of this waste in different coloured bags/sharps boxes/bins and collection will need to be organised via the borough/council.

All cytotoxic medication/waste must be disposed of in a 'purple lidded' sharps box/ specific purple bag, in order to comply with guidance and relevant legislation. If a patient is attending hospital as an outpatient, cytotoxic waste may be accepted by the hospital. Please confirm details with the relevant hospital. The hospital may supply cytotoxic sharp boxes if the council is unable to supply them.

Sharps (including cytotoxic)

Sharps (medical devices, such as needles or lancets which can cut or pierce the skin) should NOT be disposed of in the household rubbish bin. Sharps should be placed in special sharps boxes/bins for separate collection, even if they are not contaminated or have not been used.

If boroughs/councils do not supply sharps boxes, Needle Clipping Devices and Sharps Boxes (Sharpsafe® or Sharpsguard® or SharpsSafety®) are

available to prescribe on FP10 prescription (please refer to the Drug Tariff:

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/4940.aspx>)

Further guidance as to whether waste is non-clinical, clinical (and which category) and cytotoxic is available from the Department of Health [Safe management of healthcare waste. HTM 07-01 Final.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Contact your local pharmacy if you are unsure if the clinical waste is hazardous.

Each borough or district council has specific arrangements regarding Clinical Waste Disposal. Below is a list of services available from the listed borough councils. Please contact your local council for further information. Collections of hazardous clinical waste need to be arranged through the local council.

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Council	Contact details and links to book collection	Sharps and Clinical Waste Collection Arrangement and Service
Elmbridge Borough Council	Tel: 01372 474474 Elmbridge Borough Council - Sharps box collection	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Collections usually take place on Mondays. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available.
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	Tel: 01372 732000. Hard of hearing can SMS on 07950 080 202. Contact us Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (epsom-ewell.gov.uk)	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Collections take place on Wednesdays. Book by previous Thursday. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available.
Guildford Borough Council	Tel: 01483 505050 Request a medical waste collection - Guildford Borough Council	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Each area in the borough has its own day for medical waste collection. Please confirm with council if replacement bins are available as there may be supply problems. Replacement cytotoxic bins and orange bags are not available.
Mole Valley District Council	Tel: 01306 885001 SMS text (if you are deaf or hard of hearing): 07771 576411 Medical Waste Mole Valley District Council	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Collections take place on Tuesdays between 6am and 4pm. Please request your collection via the online form, by midnight on a Thursday to schedule your collection for the following Tuesday. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	Tel: 01737 276000 or SMS 07834 626468 if you are deaf or hard of hearing Clinical waste Clinical waste Reigate and Banstead (reigate-banstead.gov.uk)	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available. Register on line and the Council's contractor PHS, they will contact, via letter, within 2 weeks, to provide an PHS account number and a telephone number to book collection details. If PHS has not contacted you within 2 weeks please ring 02920 809917 or email majorcustomerservice@phs.co.uk directly.
Runnymede Borough Council	Tel: 01932 838383 Clinical waste – Runnymede Borough Council	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (excluding cytotoxic waste) can be collected, or you can drop your yellow sharps box at the Runnymede Depot, Fordwater Trading Estate, Ford Road, Chertsey, KT16 8HG, Monday to Friday 8am to 2pm. Once you have requested this service, collections will continue on a fortnightly basis. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are not available

Council	Contact details and links to book collection	Sharps and Clinical Waste Collection Arrangement and Service
Spelthorne Borough Council	Tel: 01784 446411 Clinical waste collections - Spelthorne Borough Council Email; neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (excluding cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Collections take place on Thursdays. Book collection using neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk by noon on Wednesdays. Replacement bags/bins are not supplied.
Tandridge District Council	Tel 01883 722000. If you are deaf, you can dial 18001, followed by 01883 722000 from your textphone, to have a TextRelay conversation. Send Customer Services a text to 07786 200690, using the word TANDRIDGE at the start of your message Medical waste - Tandridge District Council	Sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Other hazardous clinical waste is not collected. To request a one off or regular collection, please ring 01883 722000 and your details will be passed to the contractor, PHS. Once your details have been logged with PHS, you will receive a letter from the council, explaining how to arrange your collection(s). Please allow up to 4 weeks to receive your letter. Replacement sharps bins are available
Waverley Borough Council	Tel: 01483 523524. www.waverley.gov.uk/Services/Bins-and-recycling/Rubbish-and-recycling-collections/Clinical-or-medical-waste-collections	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available.
Woking Borough Council	Tel: 01483 755855 https://www.jointwastesolutions.org/request/request-a-sharps-collection/ Tel: 03332 340978.	Hazardous clinical waste and sharps boxes (including cytotoxic waste) can be collected. Collections take place every Wednesday between 6am and 4pm. Replacement clinical waste bags and sharps bins are available

References:

- Surrey County Council
- Department of Health
- Surrey district/borough Councils
- Surrey Environment Partnership
- Pharmaceutical Negotiating Services Committee (PSNC)
- NHS Business Services Authority Drug Tariff November 2021

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