

# Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Assessment

## REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE APPLICABILITY

**Documentation:** This Assessment is required to be completed by a Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) generator that meets the definition below. This Assessment shall be maintained by the generator for reference and review.

**Purpose:** This Assessment analyzes the types and amounts of RMW generated. At completion of this Assessment, it will recommend waste minimization and pollution prevention strategies for eliminating and reducing the amount of toxicity of the types of waste listed below.

**Definition:** RMW means the portion of waste generated in health care facilities which requires special handling and treatment prior to disposal.

**Health Care Facilities:** Includes hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, school nurse or health rooms, long-term care, hospice, dental practices, blood banks, veterinary hospitals, veterinary clinics, medical research facilities, laboratories, mobile medical units, mobile clinics, emergency response vehicles, and temporary treatment clinics.

**Types of RMW:** Includes pathological and microbiological waste containing blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), contaminated items that would release blood or OPIM in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed, sharps, animal infectious waste, liquid or semi-liquid blood or OPIM, and items that are caked with dried blood or OPIM and are capable of releasing these materials during handling.

## KEY PERSONNEL

Individual(s) Responsible for Management:

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## CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT

1. Identify individual(s) that are responsible for the management of RMW
2. RMW composition analysis: Identify types of RMW and amounts of waste generated, e.g. waste containing lead, mercury or other prohibited materials
3. Current method(s) for management of RMW, e.g. on-site or off-site, sterilize through autoclave, incineration, use of landfills or crematories
4. Feasibility of substituting toxic materials with non-toxic or less toxic materials
5. Feasibility of substituting sharps with needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protection
6. Identify purchasing strategies and opportunities to eliminate or reduce: Packaging waste, product toxicity, risk of injury from sharps, and consumption of non-renewable resources
7. Set and implement goals: Waste minimization, pollution prevention, and internal waste management policies
8. Educate and train employees to comply with waste management policies and goals (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 29 CFR 1910.1030)