

COMMUNICATION OF BIOHAZARD LABELS AND SIGNS

POLICY: All regulated waste shall be labeled as hazardous using approved methods of communication to include labels, signs and color-coding.

PURPOSE: To inform employees and patients of biohazardous waste.

PERSONNEL: All personnel

DEFINITION: Regulated waste means liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials, contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid state if compressed, items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials capable of releasing these materials during handling, contaminated sharps and pathological and microbiological waste containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Warning Labels
 - A. Warning labels shall be affixed to containers of regulated waste, refrigerators and freezers containing blood or other potentially infectious material and any other containers used to store, transport or ship blood or other potentially infectious materials.
 - B. The warning label required shall be the approved biohazard legend.
 - C. These labels shall be fluorescent orange or orange-red or predominately so with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.
 - D. Labels shall be affixed to the container by string, wire, adhesive or other method that prevents loss or unintentional removal.
- II. Exceptions from labeling
 - A. Red bags or red containers may be substituted for labels.
 - B. Containers of blood, blood components or blood products that are labeled as to contents and have been released for transfusion or other clinical use are exempt from labeling requirements.
 - C. Individual containers of blood or other potentially infectious materials that are placed in a labeled container during storage, transport, shipment or disposal are exempt from the labeling requirement.
- III. Labels required for contaminated equipment shall be in accordance with this policy and shall also state which portions of the equipment remain contaminated.
- IV. Employees shall receive training on the signs, labels and/or color-coding.