

For Discussion Purposes at the January 15, 2021 Biohazardous Medical Waste 2nd Stakeholder Workshop

At the November 5, 2020 Biohazardous Medical Waste Stakeholder meeting, comments were made about the following topics. Due to stakeholder references to other states' rules, ADEQ has provided some examples of other states' rule language that could be used to supplement, clarify, or address concerns. In these examples, the italicized language denotes other states' rules, with the relevant state in bold; numbering and letters in regular font correspond directly to ADEQ's current rule language; underlined language is ADEQ proposed language. ADEQ has also provided a summary of suggested changes in order to address stakeholder comments related to the November 5th stakeholder meeting:

R18-13-1401. Definitions

5. *[Arizona]* "Biohazardous medical waste": *[Maine]* *The following wastes may contain human pathogens of sufficient virulence and in sufficient concentrations that exposure to them by a susceptible host could result in disease and are, therefore, biomedical wastes for the purposes of this rule. Biohazardous medical waste is composed of one or more of the following:*
 - a. Cultures and stocks: Discarded cultures and stocks generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of a human being or animal or in any research relating to that diagnosis, treatment or immunization, or in the production or testing of biologicals.
 - b. Human blood and blood products: Discarded products and materials containing free-flowing blood or free-flowing blood components. *[Maine]* *These may include items such as sponges, surgical gloves and masks, drapes, aprons, dressings, disposable sheets and towels, underpads, plastic tubing, suction canisters, used syringes without needles and dialysis unit waste. [Florida]* *Used, absorbent materials saturated with blood, blood products, body fluids, or excretions or secretions contaminated with visible blood; and absorbent materials saturated with blood or blood products that have dried. [Virginia]* *Items such as bandages, gauze, or cotton swabs or other similar absorbent materials unless at any time following use they are saturated or would release human blood or human body fluids in a liquid or semiliquid state if compressed. Items that contain or that are caked with dried human blood or human body fluids and are capable of releasing these materials during handling are regulated medical waste. An item would be considered caked if it could release flakes or particles when handled. [Arkansas]* *Crime scene/accident/trauma clean-up waste generated by individuals or commercial entities hired to clean crime scenes or accidents that are saturated with human blood, sharps, or sharp objects contaminated with human blood. [Arkansas]* *Contaminated items to include dressings, bandages, packing, gauze, sponges, wipes, personal protective equipment, cotton rolls and balls, etc., which cannot be laundered or disinfected and from which blood, blood components, or regulated body fluids drip freely, or that would release*

- blood or regulated body fluids in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed or are caked with dried blood or regulated body fluids and all capable of releasing these materials during handling, not to include feminine products, enema bags, used condoms, or diapers.*
- i. Contaminated disposable, single-use gloves such as surgical or examination gloves shall not be washed or decontaminated for reuse and are to be handled as a contaminated item.*
 - ii. Protective coverings such as plastic wrap and aluminum foil used to cover equipment and environmental surfaces when removed following their contamination are considered a contaminated item.*
 - iii. All patient care items from hospital isolation rooms and end-stage renal dialysis units, or from patients with communicable diseases, which cannot be laundered and which are contaminated with regulated body fluids or blood or potential infectious material, must be considered a contaminated item.*
 - iv. Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from isolated animals known, or suspected, to be infected with communicable diseases.*
- c. *[Arizona] Human pathological wastes: Discarded organs and body parts removed during surgery or other medical procedures. [Maine] autopsy, obstetrics, emergency care, or embalming and include cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid; peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid and amniotic fluid. [Oregon] Biopsy materials and all human tissues; Anatomical parts that emanate from surgeries, autopsies and obstetrical and laboratory procedures; and Animal carcasses exposed to pathogens in research and the bedding and other waste from such animals. [South Carolina] all tissues, organs, limbs, and other body parts removed from the whole body, excluding tissues which have been preserved with formaldehyde or other approved preserving agents, and the body fluids which may be infectious due to bloodborne pathogens. These body fluids are: cerebrospinal fluids, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, semen, and vaginal/cervical secretions. [Washington] "Pathological waste" means waste human source biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. "Pathological waste" does not include teeth, human corpses, remains, and anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation. [Arkansas] all human unfixed tissues, organs and anatomical parts, other than intact skin, which emanate from surgeries, obstetrical procedures, dental procedures, autopsies and laboratories, including embalming waste. Such waste shall be exclusive of bulk formaldehyde and other preservative agents. [Illinois] This waste shall include tissue, organs, and body parts (except teeth and the contiguous structures of bone and gum), body fluids that are removed during surgery, autopsy, or other medical procedures; or specimens of body fluids and their containers. Human pathological wastes do not include the head or spinal column.*

[Note on hair, nails, and teeth as pathological/biohazardous medical waste:

Arizona does not include teeth, hair, or nails.

Hair and nails were not mentioned or included in the state rules investigated.

Alabama, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington exclude teeth;

South Carolina excludes teeth when they are returned to a patient;

Wisconsin includes teeth unless they are shown to be non-infectious;

Arkansas and *Maine* include teeth.]

- d. *[Arizona]* Medical sharps: Discarded sharps used in animal or human patient care, medical research, or clinical laboratories. This includes hypodermic needles; syringes; pipettes; scalpel blades; blood vials; needles attached to tubing; broken and unbroken glassware; and slides and coverslips. *[Arkansas]* Any waste produced in the course of physically altering a human being or animal including tattooing, ear piercing, or any other process where a foreign object is used to cut or pierce the skin. All waste generated in this manner meeting the definition of sharps must be handled accordingly.
- e. *[Arizona]* Research animal wastes: Animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that have been infected with agents that produce, or may produce, human infection.
15. *[Arizona]* “Free flowing” means liquid that separates readily from any portion of a biohazardous medical waste under ambient temperature and pressure. *[Virginia]* *[Includes]* items containing unabsorbed or free-flowing blood; items saturated or dripping or both with human blood; or items that were saturated and dripping or both with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood; including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers, which were used or intended for use in either patient care, testing and laboratory analysis or the development of pharmaceuticals. Intravenous bags are also included in this category.
35. *[Arizona]* “Transporter” means a person engaged in the business of hauling of biohazardous medical waste from the point of generation to a Department-approved storage facility or to a Department-approved treatment or disposal facility. *[Maine]* The term includes, without limitation, individuals who own, lease or otherwise control conveyances in which biomedical waste is transported, operators of such conveyances, and businesses regardless of size and form of business organization, which engage in transportation of biomedical waste. *[Florida]* A motor vehicle, ... a rail car, watercraft or aircraft, used for the transportation of biomedical waste. *[South Carolina]* A person engaged in the off site transportation of [biohazardous medical] waste by air, rail, highway, or water. *[Texas]* ...does not include a person transporting his or her household waste.

R18-13-1403. Exemptions; Partial Exemptions

- Remove A(7) to clarify requirements for those using mail or a private shipping agent to return used medical sharps
- Remove “discarded drugs” from B(3), such that B(3) now only allows sewerage liquid BMW but not discarded drugs

R18-13-1408. Storage

- Update A to provide that chemotherapy waste must be stored separately
- Clarify C(1) to allow refrigeration or dry ice to be used for cooling at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less waste kept for 7 or fewer days.
- Separate out a new C(2) to require refrigeration at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less waste kept over 7 days.

R18-13-1409. Transportation; Transporter license; Annual Fee

- Change L “30 consecutive days” to “at least once weekly for a month”
- Update M(3) &(4) to allow for cooling by refrigeration or dry ice up to 7 days at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less
- Update M(5) to allow transfer from vehicle to vehicle at the transporter’s place of business as long as the place of business is not in a residential area.

R18-13-1418. Discarded Drugs

- Remove B, sewerage section
- Add new (B), (C), and (D) to clarify areas of the federal regulations (CFR) to review regarding the sewerage ban, discarded drugs, and so forth.

R18-13-1419. Medical Sharps

[Arizona] Medical sharps shall be handled as follows:

1. A generator who treats biohazardous medical waste on site shall place medical sharps in a sharps container after rendering them incapable of creating a stick hazard by using an encapsulation agent or any other process that prevents a stick hazard. Medical sharps encapsulated or processed in this manner are considered to be solid waste. *[Wisconsin] Sharps shall be treated by any of the following methods: A method which both renders the sharp non-infectious and renders the sharp broken and not able to be reused, such as by a grinding or shredding process; Incineration. [Illinois] Sharps, unless rendered unrecognizable by treatment, must be packaged in a container or a combination of containers that is puncture-resistant.... and 1) Rigid; 2) Leak-resistant; 3) Impervious to moisture; 4) Of a strength sufficient to prevent tearing or bursting under normal conditions of use and handling; and 5) Sealed to prevent leakage during transport.*

R18-13-1420. Additional Handling Requirements for Certain Wastes

- Add two sections under (A)(2): (a) identifying types of “trace contaminated chemotherapy waste” (e.g. empty drug vials, IV tubing, and spill clean-up materials) and (b) excluding “bulk chemotherapy waste” as this is hazardous waste (e.g. full expired vials of chemotherapy drugs).