Medical Waste Information Bulletin and Disposal Guide

Recent changes in state law (sharps) and the disclosure that medical waste constituents (pharmaceuticals) have been found in drinking water have focused public attention on medical waste management. For purposes of this bulletin, medical waste can be divided into two basic groups, sharps and biohazards (which include pharmaceuticals). Both types can be of concern to public health workers, their clientele, and the public because of special problems they pose for management (handling and storage) and disposal. For a more inclusive description of medical waste see the definition at the end of this bulletin.

Sharps – As the name implies these wastes consist of medical devices meant to pierce or cut tissue. Items such as hypodermic needles, catheters, scalpels and dental tools are common sharp wastes. Since September 1, 2008 sharp waste, including household generated waste, must be placed in approved sharps containers and either picked up by a licensed medical waste hauler or shipped to a state permitted medical waste disposal facility. Sharps were banned from municipal solid waste streams because of the risk they posed to solid waste collector workers and the public.


There are some state approved sharps processing devices that render sharps safe for disposal as solid waste. These devices are tested, approved, and placed on a list by the State Health Department.


Biohazards – This group is more diverse than sharps and can consist of waste contaminated with body fluids, old medicines, disinfectants, and microbiological cultures. The most common type of biohazard waste is material contaminated by fluid blood or body fluids and must go into special medical waste bags and be managed for disposal by licensed medical waste handlers/haulers. Management of disinfectants, cold sterilants and medicine (pharmaceutical) waste, however, can be confusing. Often these wastes are considered hazardous waste under state law and must be managed as such. However depending on your status (generator classification) and type of hazardous waste (RCRA or non-RCRA), you may or may not have to manage them as hazardous waste. If managed properly they may qualify as medical waste or even solid waste. Mismanagement of these wastes can result in unintended ingestion by people and contamination of drinking water sources.

Attached to this bulletin is a guide (Appendix A), prepared by Butte County Environmental Health for assisting both businesses and the public for managing and disposing of sharps and pharmaceutical waste.
The key to utilizing the guide is to determine generator status. When considering management of these wastes, two laws overlap; the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) which regulates most medical waste and the California Hazardous Waste Control Law along with its regulatory partner Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) which regulates hazardous waste. Both laws designate a generator status:

**Medical Waste Management Act**

Small Quantity Generator (SQG), less than 200 lbs per month *(med-waste)*;  
Large Quantity Generator (LQG), greater or equal to 200lbs per month.

**Hazardous Waste Control Law**

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG), less than 100 Kg per month *(haz-waste)*;  
Small Quantity Generator (SQG), greater than or equal to 100 Kg but less than 1000Kg per month;  
Large Quantity Generator (LQG), greater than or equal to 1000 Kg per month.

Examples of generators (mixed medical and hazardous waste)  
CESQG – a doctor or dental office  
SQG - a clinic or walk-in primary care facility  
LQG - a hospital or large health care facility

Household generators are of course individuals such homeowners and renters, and are generally excluded from both state laws and regulation. Remember however, that household generators must properly dispose of sharps.

A shortage of facilities that can legally receive these wastes is a problem state-wide and Butte County is no exception. Butte County is applying for funding to increase the number of sharps waste collection sites in the county and the state is sponsoring workshops to determine the most efficient and cost effective model for dealing with pharmaceutical wastes. So in the future, the disposal problems may ease a little for generators in our community.

If you want more information concerning these wastes please utilize the following websites maintained by Cal EPA.  
https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Medications/Household/  
https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Sharps/Household/
Definitions

**Medical waste means** any biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical, or trace chemotherapy waste not regulated by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976; sharps and trace chemotherapy wastes generated in a health care setting in the diagnosis, treatment, immunization, or care of humans or animals; waste generated in autopsy or necropsy; waste generated during preparation of a body for final disposition such as cremation or interment; waste generated in research pertaining to the production or testing of microbials; wastes generated in research using human or animal pathogens; sharps and laboratory waste that poses a potential risk of infection to humans generated in the inoculation of animals in commercial farming operations; waste generated from the consolidation of home-generated sharps; and waste generated in the cleanup of trauma scenes. Biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical, sharps, and trace chemotherapy wastes that meet the conditions of this section are not subject to any of the hazardous waste requirements found in Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100) of Division 20.

**Medical waste does not include:** waste generated in food processing or biotechnology that does not contain an infectious agent, or an agent capable of causing an infection that is highly communicable; waste generated in biotechnology that does not contain human blood or blood products or animal blood or blood products suspected of being contaminated with infectious agents known to be communicable to humans or a highly communicable disease; urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat, tears or vomitus, unless it contains visible or recognizable fluid blood; waste which is not biohazardous, such as paper towels, paper products, articles containing nonfluid blood, and other medical solid waste products commonly found in the facilities of medical waste generators; hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or household waste, including but not limited to, home-generated sharps waste; waste generated from normal and legal veterinarian, agricultural, and animal livestock management practices on a farm or ranch unless otherwise specified in law.
## MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDE (Appendix A)

### PHARMACEUTICAL (PHARM) WASTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERATORS</th>
<th>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>DISPOSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| HOUSEHOLD   | Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical & Medical Waste Pharmaceuticals generated by households are not regulated under the Hazardous Waste or Medical Waste laws except for sharps disposal (see SHARPS HOUSEHOLD below). | *Required: No disposal requirements but best management practices are encouraged. *
|             | *Preferred: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility                                     |                                                                          |
| CESQG (Conditionally exempt Small Quantity Generator) | Phar-m-waste that meet Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) criteria and those that meet California-only Hazardous Waste criteria (Title 22), will be regulated under the California Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) | HHW or Medical Waste disposal facility                                    |
| SQG (Small Quantity Generator) | Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical & Medical Waste Pharmaceuticals regulated under RCRA law and California Hazardous Waste Code (Title 22) | Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals must go to a State permitted Hazardous Waste Facility |
| LQG (Large Quantity Generator) | Non-RCRA (California only) Pharmaceutical Waste regulated by California MWMA as a Biohazard | Medical Waste Pharmaceutical (non-RCRA) must go to a State permitted medical waste facility |

### SHARPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERATORS</th>
<th>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>DISPOSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| HOUSEHOLD   | Regulated as Medical Waste under California MWMA. Law amended in 2008 to prohibit disposal of household generated sharps into municipal solid waste stream. | *HHW Facility *
|             | *Home-generated sharps consolidation point *
|             | *Medical Waste generator’s facility *
|             | *Medical Waste mail-back facility                                                       |                                                                          |
| SQG & LQG   | Regulated as Medical Waste under California MWMA.                                        | *Via registered medical waste hauler *
| SQG < 200 lbs/month | At offsite Medical Waste treatment facility                                      | *Alternative treatment technology (e.g. encapsulation) *
| LQG ≥ 200 lbs/month | *Medical Waste mail-back facility                                                  |                                                                          |

*Best management includes not disposing of pharm-waste down the drain, and various strategies to prevent tampering of pharm-waste after it has been thrown away by rendering it unusable prior to disposal.*
MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix B)

BUTTE REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY
1101 Marauder St  
Chico, CA 95973  
(866) 429-2288. Emergency number (530) 343-5488  
Operating hours: Fridays (9 am - 1 pm) and Saturdays (9am to 4pm).  
They accept medical sharps waste, but not infectious medical waste. Disposal is free to Butte County residents who show proof of residency (garbage or utility bill). Sharps shall be in a rigid container labeled “Sharps”, with the lid taped on.

STERICYCLE  
(866) 783-7422  
Medical offices/ businesses can call or go on-line www.Stericycle.com for service. Service agreement shall be signed. Local pick-up service will be provided. Public/ individuals can call for service. They accept medical waste, sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

BUTTE COUNTY FIRE STATION NO. 64, KELLY RIDGE  
22 Walnut Ave  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7228  
Operating hours: Saturday 9 am- 1 pm  
Accepts sharps in rigid containers labeled “Sharps” with the lid taped on.

NORTHERN RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES  
920 American Way  
Paradise, CA 95969  
(530) 876-3340  
Operating hours: Monday through Friday (8 am- 5 pm)  
Coordinator of the program: Jennifer Arbuckle  
They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in a special container. Containers are available for sale on site (approximately $5). Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility.

RECOLOGY BUTTE COLUSA COUNTIES
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2720 South 5th Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 533-4783
Operating Hours: First and third Friday of each month (9 am- 2 pm)
They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in an approved container. Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility. Questions, please call the operator before delivering sharps.
MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix C)

DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS

BUTTE REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY
1101 Marauder St
Chico, CA 95973
(866) 429-2288. Emergency number (530) 343-5488
Operating hours: Fridays (9 am - 1 pm) and Saturdays (9am to 4pm).
They accept medical sharps waste, but not infectious medical waste. Disposal is free to Butte County residents who show proof of residency (garbage or utility bill). Sharps shall be in a rigid container labeled “Sharps”, with the lid taped on.

STERICYCLE
(866) 783-7422
1350 Schwab St
Red Bluff, CA 96080
Medical offices/ facilities only (no service to the public) can call or go on-line www.Stericycle.com for service. Service agreement shall be signed. Local pick-up service will be provided. They accept medical waste, sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

BARNETT MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES
(510) 429-9911
Services primarily medical offices. Can arrange a local pick-up of home generated pharmaceuticals in original bottles with the labels and sharps in FDA approved containers only. Containers can be provided for additional charge.

NORTHERN RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES
920 American Way
Paradise, CA 95969
(530) 876-3340
Operating hours: Monday through Friday (8 am- 5 pm)
Coordinator of the program: Jennifer Arbuckle
They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in a special container. Containers are available for sale on site (approximately $5). Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility.

RECOLOGY BUTTE COLUSA COUNTIES
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2720 South 5th Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 533-4783

Operating Hours: First and third Friday of each month (9 am - 2 pm)
They accept sharps from the public. Sharps shall be in an approved container. Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility. Questions, please call the operator before delivering sharps.
MEDICAL WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS (Appendix D)

DISPOSAL OF HOME GENERATED SHARPS

SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL KIOSK

Sharps disposal kiosks became available in Butte County through the grant from California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

For safe disposal, place your home generated syringes, needles, and lancets in a one quart hard shell securely closed container marked “SHARPS” and take it to one of the kiosk locations below.
## LOCATIONS FOR COLLECTION OF HOME GENERATED SHARPS IN BUTTE COUNTY  
(Appendix E)

### CHICO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Days/ Hours</th>
<th>Inside/ Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butte County Public Health-Chico</td>
<td>695 Oleander Ave, Chico 95926</td>
<td>530) 879-3665</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 8:30 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Butte County Public Health-Chico" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butte Regional HHW Facility</td>
<td>1101 Marauder St, Chico, 95973</td>
<td>866) 429-2288</td>
<td>Fri 9:00 am-1:00 pm Sat 9:00 am-4:00 pm</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Butte Regional HHW Facility" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management - Chico</td>
<td>2569 Scott Ave, Chico, 95926</td>
<td>530) 893-8053</td>
<td>Mon- Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Waste Management - Chico" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torres Homeless Shelter</td>
<td>101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, 95973</td>
<td>530) 891-9049</td>
<td>24 hours 7 days/ week</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Torres Homeless Shelter" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Valley Indian Health Clinic</td>
<td>845 W East Ave, Chico, CA 95926</td>
<td>530) 896-9400</td>
<td>Mon- Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="North Valley Indian Health Clinic" /></td>
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## OROVILLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Days/ Hours</th>
<th>Inside/ Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butte County Public Health-Oroville</td>
<td>78 Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville, 95965</td>
<td>530) 538-7341</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feather River Senior Center</td>
<td>1335 Myers St, Oroville, 95966</td>
<td>530) 533-8370</td>
<td>Tue, Thu, Sat 10:00 am-4:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recology Butte Colusa Counties</td>
<td>2720 S 5th Ave, Oroville, 95966</td>
<td>530) 533-5868</td>
<td>24 hours/7 days/week</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Ridge Fire Station</td>
<td>22 Walnut St, Oroville, 95966</td>
<td>530) 538-7228</td>
<td>Sat 9:00 am-1:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## GRIDLEY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
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<th>Inside/Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orchard Hospital</td>
<td>240 Spruce St, Gridley, 95948</td>
<td>530) 846-5671</td>
<td>24 hours/7 days/week</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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## TOWN OF PARADISE

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<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Inside/Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Recycling &amp; Waste Service</td>
<td>920 American Way, Paradise, 95969</td>
<td>530) 876-3340</td>
<td>Office Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm  Recycling Center Mon-Sat 10:00 am-4:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feather River Health Center</td>
<td>5125 Skyway, Paradise, 95969</td>
<td>530) 872-2000</td>
<td>24 hours, 7 days/week</td>
<td>outside</td>
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</table>
### NEAL ROAD RECYCLING & WASTE FACILITY (NEAL ROAD LANDFILL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
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<th>Days/ Hours</th>
<th>Inside/ Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neal Road Recycling &amp; Waste Facility</td>
<td>1023 Neal Road, Paradise, 95969</td>
<td>530) 345-4917</td>
<td>Daily 7:00 am-4:00 pm</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td></td>
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</table>