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. 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.

**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. http://www2.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/pages/alternativetech.aspx

**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 blood or body fluids and must go into special medical waste bags and 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 200 lbs 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 1000 Kg 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. A second attachment is a listing of local Medical Waste Service Providers accepting pharmaceutical waste (see Appendix B). Locations for collection of home generated sharps are listed in Appendix C.
If you want more information concerning these wastes please utilize the following websites maintained by Cal EPA.

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/AssessingRisk/PPCP/Pharmaceutical_Regulatory.cfm#How_are_unwanted_pharmaceuticals_regulated?#How_are_unwanted_pharmaceuticals_regulated?

http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/hhw/sharps/
# MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDE (Appendix A)

## PHARMACEUTICAL (PHARM) WASTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERATORS</th>
<th>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>DISPOSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD</td>
<td>Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical &amp; 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).</td>
<td><em>Required:</em> No disposal requirements but best management practices are encouraged. <em>Preferred:</em> Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESQG (Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator) *Hazardous waste &lt; 100kg/month</td>
<td>Pharm-waste that meet Resource Conservation &amp; 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).</td>
<td>HHW or Medical Waste disposal facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQG (Small Quantity Generator) *Hazardous waste ≥ 100 kg but &lt; 1000 kg/month Medical waste &lt; 200 lbs/month</td>
<td>Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical &amp; Medical Waste Pharmaceuticals regulated under RCRA law and California Hazardous Waste Code (Title 22).</td>
<td>Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals must go to a State permitted Hazardous Waste Facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LQG (Large Quantity Generator) *Hazardous waste ≥ 1000 kg/month Medical waste ≥ 200 lbs/month</td>
<td>Non – RCRA (California only) pharmaceutical Waste regulated by California MWMA as a Biohazard.</td>
<td>Medical Waste Pharmaceutical (non-RCRA) must go to a State permitted Medical Waste facility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SHARPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERATORS</th>
<th>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>DISPOSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SQG &amp; LQG</td>
<td>Regulated as Medical Waste under California MWMA.</td>
<td>*Via registered medical waste hauler. *At offsite Medical Waste treatment Facility. *Alternative treatment technology (e.g. encapsulation). *Medical Waste mail-back facility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 (9am to 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 rigid container labeled “Sharps”, with the lid taped on.

MEDISPOSE MEDICAL WASTE TRANSPORT
139 Innsbrook Way
Chico, CA 95927
(530) 893-0510
Operating hours: Monday through Friday (8am to 5 pm).
They accept all types of medical waste (sharps, infectious), but they do not do one-time pickups of household medical wastes nor do they accept customer dropoffs onsite. To receive service, users must sign a contract with Medispose for regular pick-up service. This company also owns "Medwaste Disposal Service, Inc" in Lakeport and Yuba City, both of which adhere to the same rules as the Chico facility.

STERICYCLE
(866) 783-7422
(Former NORTH STATE SPECIALITY WASTE located at 1350 Schwab St in 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.

BUTTE COUNTY FIRE STATION NO. 64, KELLY RIDGE
22 Walnut Ave, Oroville
(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 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
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 (approx. $5, which is a price for removal). Containers with sharps shall be dropped
off in a designated container at the facility.

NORCAL WASTE SYSTEMS
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2720 South 5th Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 533-4783
Operating Hours: First and Third Friday on each month (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
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
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 (9am to 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 rigid container labeled “Sharps”, with the lid taped on.

STERICYCLE
(866) 783-7422
(Former NORTH STATE SPECIALITY WASTE located at 1350 Schwab St in 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 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
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 (approx. $5, which is a price for removal). Containers with sharps shall be dropped off in a designated container at the facility.

NORCAL WASTE SYSTEMS
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2720 South 5th Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 533-4783
Operating Hours: First and Third Friday on each month (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
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 operator before delivering sharps.
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHICO</th>
<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></td>
<td>Butte County Public Health - Chico</td>
<td>695 Oleander Ave,</td>
<td>(530) 879-3665</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
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<td>Chico, 95926</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(530) 879-3665</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butte Regional HHW Facility</td>
<td>1101 Marauder St,</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" alt="Photo" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chico, 95973</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Management - Chico</td>
<td>2569 Scott Ave,</td>
<td>(530) 893-8053</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Photo" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chico, 95928</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Torres Homeless Shelter</td>
<td>101 Silver Dollar Way,</td>
<td>(530) 891 - 9048</td>
<td>24 hours 7 days/week</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Photo" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chico, 95928</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Valley Indian Health Clinic</td>
<td>845 W. East Ave,</td>
<td>(530) 896-9400</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Photo" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chico, 95926</td>
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### GRIDLEY

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<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biggs-Gridley Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>240 Spruce St, Gridley</td>
<td>(530) 846-5671</td>
<td>24 hours / 7 days/week</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td><img src="gridley_hospital_image" alt="Photo" /></td>
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### TOWN OF PARADISE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
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<th>Days / Hours</th>
<th>Inside / Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Recycling &amp; Waste Services</td>
<td>920 American Way, Paradise, 95969</td>
<td>(530) 876-3340</td>
<td>Office Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td><img src="northern_recycling_image" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recycling Center Mon - Sat 10:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td><img src="northern_recycling_image" alt="Photo" /></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>
<td><img src="feather_river_health_center_image" alt="Photo" /></td>
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### OROVILLE

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<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
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<th>Inside / Outside</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butte County Public Health - Oroville</td>
<td>Table Mountain Blvd, Oroville, 95965</td>
<td>(530) 538-7341</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feather River Senior Center</td>
<td>1335 Myers St., Oroville, 95965</td>
<td>(530) 533-8370</td>
<td>Tue, Thu, Sat 10:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Ridge Fire Station</td>
<td>22 Walnut St, Oroville, 95966</td>
<td>(530) 538-7228</td>
<td>Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Inside</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Photo" /></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 7days/week</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Photo" /></td>
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### NEAL ROAD RECYCLING & WASTE FACILITY
(NEAL ROAD LANDFILL)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
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<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility (Neal Road Landfill)</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><img src="image5" alt="Photo" /></td>
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