

## **Clinical Waste collections.**

Clinical Waste is something which consists of, and unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with, this includes;

- human or animal tissue
- blood or bodily fluids
- excretions
- drugs or other pharmaceutical products
- swabs or dressings
- syringes, needles or other sharp instruments

The Council is only obliged to collect the clinical waste generated by the resident by self treatment in the home, but may make a charge to cover the cost of collection. If the resident is treated in their home by a community nurse or a member of the NHS profession, any waste produced as a result is considered to be the healthcare professional's waste. Any waste arising from activities of healthcare professionals is the responsibility of the Primary Care Trust (PCT)

If the waste is non-hazardous, and as long as it is appropriately bagged and sealed, it is acceptable for the waste to be disposed of with household waste. This is usually the case with sanitary towels, nappies and incontinence pads (known collectively as sanpro waste) which are not considered to be hazardous when they originate from a healthy population.

If the waste is classified as hazardous the healthcare professional can remove that waste and transport it in approved containers (i.e. rigid, leak proof, sealed, secured etc) and take it back to the trust base for appropriate disposal. Alternatively, the PCT can make arrangements for the disposal of the waste with an appropriate waste contractor for which a charge may be made.

The demand for this service increases each year and it is reasonably foreseeable that this will increase further. Clinical Collections are resource intensive and the increase in provision of this service if not managed will create operational difficulties and increase operational costs. In order to manage this service the following policy is proposed that will enable an assessment of the application situation to be undertaken to determine eligibility and also enable a review of their situation.

The Council is currently in discussions with the PCT to ensure the correct management/cost of this service.

The proposed policy is:

**Clinical Waste Collection Policy:**

- Only resident generated waste to be included in this service.
- A written referral must be received from the PCT or healthcare professional.
- A formal application for a clinical waste collection must be completed.
- An Officer visit may be made to assess eligibility and suitability for clinical waste collections.
- A maximum period of 12 months for clinical collections between reviews.
- No charge will be applied to this service.
- Residents will be required to apply and renew their collection request by means of an application form.
- Waste must be presented in the correct container.
- Provision of the clinical collection service may also be dependent on the property being assessed as suitable to receive the service in accordance with Health & Safety procedures.
- All residents current receiving a non-standard collection service, will be considered in view of the new policy and where applicable these may be retrospectively applied.

Container Type	Acceptable materials	Unacceptable Materials
Yellow Clinical Waste Bags / Boxes	Clinical waste generated by resident only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• human or animal tissue;</li> <li>• blood or bodily fluids;</li> <li>• excretions;</li> <li>• drugs or other pharmaceutical products;</li> <li>• swabs or dressings; or;</li> <li>• syringes, needles or other sharp instruments;</li> </ul>	Clinical waste generated by by a community nurse or a healthcare professional providing treatment at home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sanitary towels, nappies and incontinence pads (known collectively as sanpro waste)</li> <li>• packaging</li> <li>• other household waste</li> </ul>
The top of the bag must be tied closed, there is no limit on the quantity of clinical waste collected		
The bag should be placed out for collection at the approved collection point by 7:00am of that day.		

