

# MEDICAL WASTE



## Complexity made simple.

**The more complex the medical waste regulations confronting you, the more you need a knowledgeable environmental solutions provider to manage them.**

*Common examples of medical waste include:*

- *Microbiological Waste*
- *Sharps*
- *Pathological Waste*
- *Items Contaminated with Blood*

*Mandates from OSHA, EPA, DOT, The Joint Commission and a myriad of state and local decrees all impact the way you manage your medical waste. The sheer volume and growing complexity of the medical waste-related regulations confronting your healthcare institution can be challenging. Not to mention internal standard precautions and related infection-control issues can cause your staff to recoil in frustration.*

*Often the more pressing matters related to the support of patient care can interfere with proper disposal of medical waste. In the hustle and bustle of everyday healthcare work, staff may default to placing items in containers associated with higher handling*



*(Continued)*

and disposal costs. Putting too much material into containers with higher-cost treatment requirements can needlessly drive up your total costs.

### **Right-sizing your operation.**

Waste Management's solutions for healthcare simplifies management of your waste. Through our innovative post-consumption materials management approach to classifying waste, our regulatory and process specialists work closely with your staff to engineer processes that both safely and efficiently direct your institution's waste to the most appropriate container. Proper categorization of waste is one of the best methods of reducing the higher costs associated with treatment of medical waste.

The advantages of collaborating with Waste Management to manage your medical waste include:

- "Right-sizing" your operation
- Reducing your regulated medical waste volume
- Reducing related treatment costs
- Preventing waste-related regulatory issues

We take a holistic approach to both set and realize environmental and economic goals. We offer a world-class infrastructure you can rely on to **efficiently and affordably manage your medical waste.**

We supplement our nationwide capabilities with a growing array of innovative solutions. These solutions are evolving to provide you with **the safeguards you need to protect your patients, your employees, and your reputation.**

### **Non-compliance is not an option.**

Proper treatment of medical waste is generally viewed as the generator's responsibility "to do the right thing." The law places much of the responsibility for ensuring the regulatory compliance relative to medical waste management and treatment on the generator of the waste. These responsibilities require that you either invest the human resources necessary to keep up to date on new regulatory developments, or work with a knowledgeable environmental solutions provider.

Waste Management can provide you with healthcare experts well-versed in the ever-changing regulations that affect your facility. Together, we can assess your current operations and help you implement best practices for meeting your responsibilities, while mitigating the risk of non-compliance.

### **Putting waste in its proper place.**

Because 80% of a typical hospital's waste consists of municipal solid waste, the potential for cost savings in regulated medical waste-treatment is significant.

**Our experience with the tens of thousands of healthcare customers we currently serve** has shown us that energizing, motivating staff training is critical to ensuring the optimal classification of waste. We can jointly develop flexible, forward-looking educational strategies that make your staff proficient at the skills necessary to "put waste in its proper place" – reducing the volume that flows into higher-cost, regulated medical waste. So you can increasingly recover a greater portion of your waste costs. And transform your environmental programs into assets instead of liabilities.

### **Treatment options that work best for you.**

Waste Management's solutions for healthcare can move you toward the treatment options that work best to achieve your goals.

On-site treatment is a practical, cost-efficient and effective option for treating waste. We can help you acquire and operate onsite equipment that's right for your situation. We can also leverage our national infrastructure to help you minimize both your transport and processing related costs.

Our acquisition of one of the country's largest medical-waste treatment centers in Chambers County, Texas, gives institutions in this region a cost-efficient means for disposing of regulated medical waste. Together, we can set realistic operational goals and lower material-management cost. Simultaneously, we can provide you with the supporting expertise and data necessary to achieve measurable results.

**Contact your Waste Management specialist today at 1-866-931-6321 or visit us at [healthcare.wm.com](http://healthcare.wm.com) to get more value out of your waste.**

