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| **Disposal of Waste Generated during the Management of Patients with Airborne High Consequence Infectious Diseases (AHCID, eg. COVID-19) in the treatment centre.** | | |
| Document type | Identification code | Implementation date |
| Standard operating procedure | SOP-AIR-006 | 17 February 2020 |

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\* to be hand-written to indicate approval

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# Purpose

* 1. This procedure describes the disposal of waste generated during the management of patients with Airborne High Consequence Infectious Diseases (AHCID, eg. COVID-19) in the Treatment Centre (TC).

# Scope

2.1 This SOP MUST be enforced for ALL TC staff handling and managing patients with or suspected of having AHCID.

# Responsibilities

3.1 The head of Clinical Services department (CSD) is responsible for the oversight and running of the clinical services department in which the TC is sited.

3.2 The lead AHCID doctor is responsible for training and overseeing the adherence to this SOP

3.3 All TC staff are required to observe all the applicable practices and procedures detailed in the SOP, attend training/drill sessions and report all incidents/accidents to the AHCID lead doctor.

# Procedure

**Note:** 10%bleach solution=0.5% chlorine.

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| **Section** | **Description** | **Person(s) Responsible** |
| **4.1** | **Facilities and materials for waste disposal**   1. Drum incinerators with metal lighting rods. 2. Sluice basins/pit latrines. 3. Ash /sharps pit. 4. Commodes and buckets with lids. 5. 10% bleach. 6. Plastic waste and bio-hazard bags and bins. 7. Sharps container. 8. Used engine oil. 9. Blue paper towels. | TC |
| **4.2** | **Definition and Examples** |  |
| 4.2.1 | **Burnable waste**  **Dry waste** is all waste that has low moisture content and is therefore easily burnt. Examples are dressings, packaging, paper, used protective clothing (gowns, gloves, etc), etc.  **Wet waste** is waste that has high moisture content. In practice, mainly contaminated waste that has been disinfected with chlorine (clothes, mattresses, etc). |  |
| 4.2.2 | **Liquid waste**  Examples are body fluids: vomit, soft stools, urine, blood, etc). Body fluids can be excreted in two ways: In a **controlled way** (into a bucket); in an **uncontrolled way** (spills on floor, bed, clothes, etc). |  |
| 4.2.3 | **Organic waste**  Organic waste originating from the human body (placentas, body parts etc). Others are food leftovers etc. |  |
| 4.2.4 | **Sharps**  Items that can cause cuts or puncture wounds, including needles, scalpels, knives, infusion sets, saws, broken glass, nails, etc. |  |
| 4.3 | **Burnable waste** | TC Staff |
| 4.3.1 | To reduce the risk of leaks, 2 plastic garbage bags, one inside the other, should be used to collect both wet and dry waste. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.2 | When the double bag is ¾ full, seal the bag by tying the open end. This should be done carefully and slowly to reduce the risk of expelling air rapidly from the bag and generating dangerous aerosols. **Avoid over-filling bags** to ensure that they can be closed easily and dropped into waste bin. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.3 | Disinfect the outer bag by spraying with 10% bleach, and drop in a bio-hazard bag (also double) in a plastic waste bin. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.4 | The ends of the bio-harzard bags are carefully tied closed before they are full and carried by the nurse or cleaning staff to the incineration area as necessary or when the bins are full. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5 | Daily scheduled burning of waste is done. More frequent burning may be necessary to avoid over accumulation. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5.1 | Soak blue paper towels with used engine oil and place on the bottom of the incinerator. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5.2 | Place bags (**without opening them**) on the soaked paper towels. Lightly sprinkle oil on the bags afterwards to ensure uniform and complete burning. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5.3 | Wrap blue paper towel at the end of the metal lighting rod, and light with a match or lighter. Then set the bags alight while standing at a **safe distance.** | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5.4 | Your buddy supervises and assists with the whole process. | TC Staff |
| 4.3.5.5 | Ash is put in the ash pit when it accumulates | TC Staff |
| 4.4 | **Liquid waste: Controlled/Organic Waste** |  |
| 4.4.1 | Collect waste in a bucket which is prefilled with 2cm of 10% bleach.  When waste has been excreted, add enough 10% bleach to cover the waste completely. Cover with lid and allow minimum of **15 minutes** for chlorine to act.  Solid organic waste should be collected in a double plastic bag. Seal the bag by tying the open end. Disinfect the outside of the bag or bucket with 10% bleach. | TC Staff |
| 4.4.2 | Carry the covered bucket or bag to the latrine without splashing or spilling. | TC Staff |
| 4.4.3 | Dispose of liquid waste into the sluice basins draining to the **pit latrine,** and other organic solid waste directly into the pit latrine without opening the bags. Rinse out basin and bucket with 10% bleach. | TC Staff |
| 4.4.4 | Dip gloved hands in 10% bleach for 60 seconds before leaving the pit latrine area. |  |
| 4.5 | **Liquid waste: Uncontrolled spills** |  |
| 4.5.1 | Pour 10% bleach directly on the spill without splashing. | TC Staff |
| 4.5.2 | Leave for **15 minutes**. | TC Staff |
| 4.5.3 | Mop up with absorptive paper towel. Place the waste into a bucket if soaked, or put in double waste bags if dry enough to be burned. | TC Staff |
| 4.5.4 | The soaked paper towels should be disposed of into the **pit latrine** or incinerated if dry enough. | TC Staff |
| 4.7 | **Sharps** |  |
| 4.7.1 | Sharps containers must be – waterproof, puncture resistant, and clearly marked “SHARPS”. | TC Staff |
| 4.7.2 | All sharps waste produced at the TC should be disposed of immediately into the Yellow sharps container provided. |  |
| 4.7.3 | To avoid pricks, sharps containers should be sealed shut when the waste is at the marker line on the container or when the container is 2/3 full. | TC Staff |
| 4.7.4 | Disinfect outside of the sharps container with 10% bleach before transporting. | TC Staff |
| 4.7.5 | Carry to the incinerator area to be incinerated. | TC Staff |

# Appendices

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| **Appendix number** | **Title** (as referenced on the appendix) |
| Appendix 01 | Document Version History |

# Attachments

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| **Attachment number** | **Title** (as referenced on the attachment) |
| None |  |

# References

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| SOP-ETC-006 Disposal of Waste during the management of patients with Ebola Virus Disease  Médecins Sans Frontières, 2008. Filovirus Haemorrhagic Fever Guideline. Annex 14. Page 105. |

**Appendix 01 Document Version History**

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