

Interim Waste Guidance for Community Pharmacy in NHS Borders

NHS Scotland has been advised by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) that to ensure compliance with the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) regulations 2004, that they are required to consign all healthcare waste as special waste. From 1st February 2007 NHS Boards are required to consign this waste from their premises for appropriate recovery, treatment and or disposal.

To help fulfil the requirements of the regulations we must ensure that guidance is supplied to you on disposal of waste from Pharmacies. Common examples of waste requiring guidance include disposal of medicines either expired or returned by patients, used sharps from needle exchange and cytotoxic medicines.

The new regulations mean that NHS Borders is responsible for a three monthly pick up from you.

The NPA briefing on waste clearly states you must not remove individual tablets or capsules from blister packaging, ie 'deblister', before placing the waste medicines in the waste disposal container as this could be defined as 'waste treatment' which would require a license.

The exception to this is controlled drugs which must be removed from their original packaging in order to be denatured (see below).

However you may remove blister strips from the outer cardboard carton and place intact blister strips into the waste container.

Compliance Aids should be treated as blister packaging and should be placed in the yellow bin unless they contain controlled drugs. If a compliance aid contains a controlled drug it must be removed from the blister packaging and processed as a controlled drug.

Most medicines including Prescription Only Medicines are now classified as special waste under the Special Waste Regulations. Under the new legislation, only cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines are automatically classified as hazardous waste.

At present there is no definitive list of which medicines are classified as hazardous waste. However a cytotoxic or cytostatic medicine is defined under the legislation as a product that is toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of medicines that may be considered hazardous.

To help support the processing of waste by NHS Borders staff we require pharmacists to sort and code medicines or sharps. The table below identifies the waste codes most likely to be used on the yellow bins.

Waste code	Waste Description
18 01 01	Sharps (except 18 01 03)
18 01 03	Wastes whose collection and disposal is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection
18 01 04	Wastes whose collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection (for example dressings, plaster casts, linen, disposable clothing, diapers)
18 01 06	Chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances
18 01 07	Chemicals other than those mentioned in 18 01 06
18 01 08	Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines
18 01 09	Medicines other than those mentioned in 18 01 08

We require all pharmacies to separate and sort different formulations to be disposed. This includes liquids (see appendix 2) and aerosols which are not processed by NHS Borders and Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines which require different coding as hazardous substances. The table below identifies most common situations encountered in community pharmacy and suggests the method of sorting appropriate to the situation.

Formulation	for	Action
Destruction		
Aerosol		Place in its own yellow bin (advise 5L) marked on the outside with 18 01 09 and clearly marked aerosols
Liquids		Place original container in its own yellow bin (advise 22L) record the liquid disposed of using the performa in appendix 2 mark on the outside with 18 01 09 and clearly marked liquids
Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Medicines		Place in yellow bin with purple lid (advise 5L) and mark on the outside of the box 18 01 08
Non Cytotoxic and Cytostatic solid dose medicines		Place in yellow bin marked on the outside with 18 01 09
Sharps for needle exchange		Place returned sharps container into yellow bin marked on the outside with 18 01 03
Creams and Ointments		Place in yellow bin marked on the outside with 18 01 09

CD Destruction Guidance

Contractors should make use of DUMP containers in the destruction of CDs.

Liquid dose formulations Liquid dose formulations should be added to, and absorbed by the contents of the DUMP jar.

Solid dose formulations Solid dose formulations should be crushed and added to a DUMP jar.

Parenteral formulations Ampoules should be crushed with a pestle inside an empty plastic container. The content should then be poured into a DUMP jar and disposed of as directed.

Fentanyl patches The active ingredient in Fentanyl patches can be rendered irretrievable by removing the backing and folding the patch over upon itself.

Once the above procedures have been carried out, the resultant DUMP jar can be added to Yellow bin with non-cytotoxic waste coded 18 01 09.

Appendix 1

List of Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Medicines

The Hazardous Waste Regulations currently does not include a complete list of medicines defined as hazardous. The following list is adapted from a list published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the US (available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hazdrug/> and can be used as a guide when deciding if a medicine should be classed as hazardous.

Aldesleukin
Alemtuzumab
Altretamine
Amsacrine
Anastrozole
Arsenic trioxide
Asparaginase
Azathioprine
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin
Bexarotene
Bicalutamide
Bleomycin
Busulfan
Capecitabine
Carboplatin
Carmustine
Cetorelix acetate
Chlorambucil
Chloramphenicol
Choriogonadotropin alfa
Cidofovir
Cisplatin
Cladribine
Colchicine
Cyclophosphamide
Cytarabine
Ciclosporin
Dacarbazine
Dactinomycin
Daunorubicin HCl
Diethylstilbestrol
Dinoprostone
Docetaxel
Doxorubicin
Dutasteride
Epirubicin
Ergometrine

Estradiol
Estramustine phosphate
Estrone
Estropipate
Etoposide
Exemestane
Finasteride
Fludarabine
Fluorouracil
Flutamide
Fulvestrant
Ganciclovir
Ganirelix acetate
Gemcitabine
Gonadotrophin, chorionic
Goserelin
Hydroxycarbamide
Ibritumomab tiuxetan
Idarubicin
Ifosfamide
Imatinib mesylate
Interferon alfa-2a
Interferon alfa-2b
Irinotecan HCl
Leflunomide
Letrozole
Leuprorelin acetate
Lomustine
Chlormethine
Megestrol
Melphalan
Menotrophins
Mercaptopurine
Methotrexate
Methyltestosterone
Mifepristone
Mitomycin

Mitotane
Mitoxantrone
Mycophenolate mofetil
Oestrogen-progestogen combinations
Oestrogens, conjugated
Oestrogens, esterified
Paclitaxel
Pentamidine isetionate
Pentostatin
Podophyllum
Procarbazine
Progesterone
Progestogens
Raloxifene
Raltitrexed
Ribavirin
Tacrolimus
Tamoxifen
Temozolomide
Testosterone
Thalidomide
Tioguanine
Thiotepa
Topotecan
Toremifene citrate
Tretinoin
Triptorelin
Valganciclovir
Vinblastine sulfate
Vincristine sulfate
Vindesine
Vinorelbine tartrate
Zidovudine

Appendix 2

Liquids Recording Sheet

Pharmacy Name:

Address:

Contact Name:

Contact Telephone Number

Name of Liquid	Volume of Liquid