

## Infectious Waste Guidance For Home Healthcare Providers

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for handling and disposal of infectious wastes unique to home healthcare providers.

### APPLICABILITY

Any business that generates infectious waste is considered an infectious waste generator and is subject to Ohio's infectious waste regulations. Only infectious wastes generated by an **individual** for the purpose of his/her **own** care or treatment is exempt from the infectious waste regulations. An infectious waste generator is classified as a small generator when less than 50 pounds of infectious waste are generated per calendar month and a large generator when 50 pounds or more of infectious waste are generated per calendar month. Home healthcare providers should also read the guidance document for small generators or large generators of infectious waste for more detailed information regarding proper handling, packaging, storing, shipping, and treatment of infectious waste.

### COMMON INFECTIOUS WASTES GENERATED IN HOME HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

- Sharps (including, but not limited to, hypodermic needles, syringes, and scalpel blades) used in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of humans
- Waste materials generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of humans
- Human blood specimens and blood products. "Blood products" does not include bandages or disposable gowns that are lightly soiled with blood.
- Any other waste materials the generator designates as infectious wastes

### HANDLING & DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Infectious sharps must be placed in a sharps container and all other infectious waste should be placed in a plastic bag (small generators) or biohazard bag (large generators). Small generators may dispose of the infectious waste in the home of the patient **after** quantification utilizing a portable scale, or take the infectious waste back to a central location for quantification. Large generators must take the infectious waste back to the home office or have a registered infectious waste transporter take the waste to a licensed infectious waste treatment facility. The vehicle of a home health care provider is exempt from the infectious waste transporter registration requirements. However, it is recommended that the infectious waste be transported in a closeable container that is secured inside the vehicle.

### APPLICABLE RULES

OAC	3745-27-01	3745-27-33
	3745-27-30	3745-27-34
	3745-27-31	3745-27-35
	3745-27-32	3745-27-36

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**DSIWM Supervisors:**

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