

# ADDENDUM 4

## HANDLING OF COVID-19 HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE

### Background

The recommendation in this document may change regularly based on new research, compliance obligations from Government or as the risk profile of the patients being admitted changes.

This document provides recommendations with regards to the disposal of COVID-19 health care risk waste in line with the Department of Health Guidelines on Management of Coronavirus or COVID 19 health care waste, 30 March 2020 and *COVID-19 National Public Hygiene Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 – Signed 14/04/2020 by Dr A Pillay, Acting Director-General: Health*

### Recommendation

#### 1. Management of waste generated from COVID-19 patients:

The waste stream generated from ECs, isolation rooms, COVID nursing units or theatres where aforementioned patients may be managed shall be treated as **COVID-19 isolation waste**. In addition to the normal management of waste generated in isolation areas, waste must in addition be:

- Safely disposed of in doubled bagged designated **single use box sets** (50L or 142L).
- The box is lined with two red bags. (60 micron)
- Hospitals will have the option to select a 50L or 142L box set for ordering.
- The designated single use box sets must be marked “COVID-19” by writing in clear print on the box using a permanent marker.
- As per the normal legislative requirements the box must be marked with the date, unit and hospital name.
- Both the liners must be cable tied together when the box is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- The box sets which are double bagged must sealed with tape at the point of waste generation prior to internal collection. The box lid must be secured to the box base with tape around all four sides of the box set.
- **AVERDA ONLY:** The box sets must be placed inside a clear bag that will be provided by Averda with NO additional cost to Mediclinic. The bag must then be secured with tape and not with a cable tie.
- The box sets, liners and tape can be procured from the HCRW service provider and can also be procured from alternative suppliers as long as it meets the specified standards (e.g. bags must be 60 micron).
- Sharps containers must be closed when  $\frac{3}{4}$  full and sealed. The date when the container was closed and the identification as “COVID-19” must be written with a permanent marker on the sharps container.
- The sharps container must then be placed in a 60 micron red bag and sealed with tape.

## 2. Storage and collection

- Sealed COVID-19 box sets and sharps containers removed from nursing departments must be stored at the central HCRW storage area prior to collection for treatment and disposal.
- The HCRW service provider must be contacted the afternoon prior to the day of collection if there is COVID-19 waste to be collected.

Compass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Customer Service Free State: 051 447 0254 or <a href="mailto:salesfs@compass.za.net">salesfs@compass.za.net</a></li><li>• Customer Service KwaZulu Natal: 031 267 9700 or <a href="mailto:sales@compass.za.net">sales@compass.za.net</a></li></ul>
Averda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mediclinic dedicated contact number 010 141 5755</li><li>• Mediclinic dedicated e-mail address: <a href="mailto:mediclinic@averda.com">mediclinic@averda.com</a></li><li>• Mediclinic dedicated WhatsApp: 0716365076</li><li>• Operations (escalations) for non - collection<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Marika Human 082 222 3258 - Western Cape Regions</li><li>▪ Gerhard van der Merwe 082 923 5868 - Northern &amp; Tshwane Regions</li></ul></li></ul>

- Place COVID-19 waste on one side of the storage area. Depending on volumes or processing sites, it may be necessary for the HCRW provider to collect COVID-19 waste separately.
- The waste may however be collected and transported with other health care risk waste streams/categories provided it is clearly identified and marked "COVID-19".
- Designated hospital representatives must witness collection of the waste at all times.
- A separate waste manifest document will be completed by the supplier indicating the volumes of COVID-19 waste removed. This will be used for reporting purposes.

### **NOTE: Averda only\***

Should COVID-19 HCRW not be collected, the day after escalation to Averda Operations, the Hospital General Manager can approve contact with an the following alternative Service Providers for the removal of the waste:

- Compass (WC Inland and Coastal Regions): Desire Golaith - 082 906 5581 , and
  - ClinX: (Northern and Tshwane Regions): Adele Kriel – [adele@clinx.co.za](mailto:adele@clinx.co.za) / 011 902 9700
- Any additional cost will be off-set against monies owed to Averda by the relevant Mediclinic Hospital.

## 3. Healthcare Risk Waste differentiation

- All waste generated in Emergency Centres during the care of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients will be managed as detailed above as COVID-19 HCRW. (There should be no holding or separation of waste pending confirmation of results).
- In isolation rooms; COVID designated units or theatres where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are managed, all HCRW generated must be managed as COVID-19 HCRW.

Note: All other HCRW generated by nursing departments or areas which are managing non-COVID patients should be managed in the normal manner as per existing processes detailed in the Corporate Policy: Waste - Collection, disposal and removal

#### **4. Anatomical waste**

- There are **no additional requirements** in terms of managing anatomical waste from COVID-19 patients.
- Care should be taken to prevent environmental contamination from the outside surface of any anatomical waste bag (e.g. containing a placenta) or container when waste is removed from a COVID-19 isolation room or theatre.
- The form accompanying any specimens for histology should indicate COVID-19 for awareness of the receiving laboratory, although no additional precautions are required.

#### **References**

1. Guidelines on Management of Coronavirus or COVID-19 Health care waste, 30 March 2020
2. Mediclinic Corporate Policy: Isolation, standard and transmission based precautions
3. Mediclinic Corporate Policy: Waste- Collection, disposal and removal
4. SANS10248-1:2008: Management of healthcare risk waste from a healthcare facility
5. COVID-19 National Public Hygiene Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 – Signed 14/04/2020 by Dr A Pillay, Acting Director-General: Health

Document compiled with input from: Liezl Myburgh; Aldrid Jacobs; Christine Smedley; Briette du Toit