

Guide for Permitted Waste Streams

**HSE** Ireland

**GENERATIONS**®





#### Healthcare Waste

The HSE Waste Management handbook defines Healthcare Waste as solid or liquid waste arising from healthcare or health related facilities. The waste comprises two fractions, namely risk waste and non-risk waste as illustrated in the image below from the handbook: https://shorturl.at/xHKLM

## Healthcare Waste

#### Healthcare Risk Waste

Hazardous

This is categorised as waste which is potentially harmful to those who come in to contact with it due to its infectious, chemical, biological nature. It is classified as hazardous

#### Healthcare Non-Risk Waste

Non-Clinical Healthcare Waste

This category of waste includes waste which is not classified as hazardous.

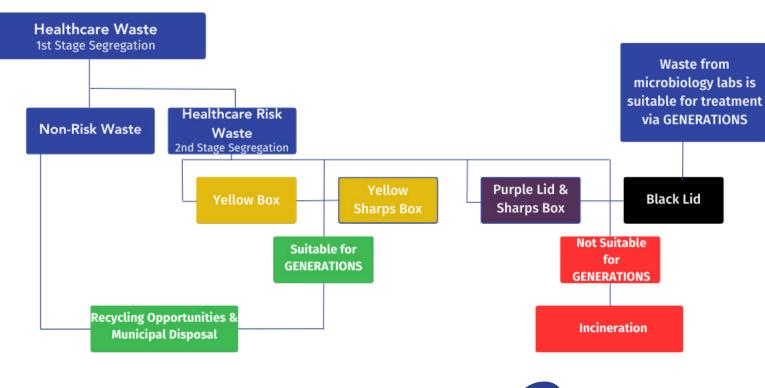
Non-Risk is a classification but this waste must still be handled carefully to avoid risk



#### Segregation

The correct segregation of waste at the point of generation is crucial to the management of all wastes. The figure below, adapted from the HSE handbook, illustrates the basic segregation and packaging requirements for risk waste. The figure also highlights the waste streams that can be processed by GENERATIONS.

- The first level of segregation involves the division of healthcare waste into risk and non-risk waste.
- Two different types of packaging are used for healthcare risk waste, bags and rigid containers.
- Non-risk waste is usually packaged in black or transparent bags. However transparent bags provide for ease of identification of waste types and prevent cross-contamination with risk waste.
- There are no particular packaging and segregation requirements for non-risk waste but segregation where possible to meet the requirements of recycling schemes should be completed.





#### Processing Healthcare Waste in GENERATIONS

The following information outlines the appropriate waste streams for treatment in GENERATIONS. Clinical waste segregation separates wastes that require incineration, from those that can be treated and those that can be landfilled. The purpose of the GENERATIONS treatment (disinfection) is to disinfect infectious waste and render it safe.

If the waste possesses other chemical, pharmaceutical or anatomical characteristics, treatment may not be suitable and requires discussion with Envetec. The graphic below outlines the permitted wastes that can be treated by GENERATIONS.

#### Waste Streams Treated



Yellow Bag Waste



Sharps Waste



Yellow Rigid Container Waste

#### **Waste Streams Not Treated**



Purple Lid Waste



Purple Lid Sharps Waste



Black Lid Waste





Yellow Bag UN 3291



Suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

## UN approved and designed for containment of 'soft' waste only

- Blood stained or contaminated items, swabs, bandages, personal protective equipment i.e. gowns, aprons, gloves
- Suction catheters and tubing
- Waste contaminated with known or suspected infections





Yellow Rigid Containers



Suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

## For the containment of:

- Blood Administration
  Sets (never disconnect line from bag)
- Contained blood and body fluids
- Disposable suction liners
- Redivac Drains
- Sputum containers
- chest drains





Sharps Boxes UN 3291



Suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

## UN approved containment of:

- Needles and syringes, scalpels, sharp tips of IV sets
- Contaminated slides, stitch cutters, guide wires and razors
- Blood stained or contaminated glass
- Any other contaminated item likely to puncture a bag



envete. GENERATIONS envetec

Purple Lidded Sharps Boxes UN 3291



Not suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

### **UN approved containment** of:

- Needles, syringes, sharp instruments, cartridges and broken glass used in the administration of cytotoxic drugs
- Unused medicines



Rigid Containers with Purple Lids





Not suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

#### For the containment of:

- Non-sharps cytotoxic waste, and left over cytotoxic drug preparations
- Out of date medicines or unused pharmaceuticals left over after administration to patients
- Denaturing kits



Rigid Containers with Black Lids





Not suitable for treatment via GENERATIONS

GENERATIONS is suitable for waste streams from the microbiology laboratory

## For the containment of:

- Recognisable anatomical waste and placenta
- Blood or tissue suspected of CJD contamination
- Large or bulk metal objects e.g. titanium hip joints, laryngoscope blades



