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Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Health Care Personnel

From: Julie Coleman, Director, Bureau of Waste Management

Date: January 31, 2020

Re: Management of Medical Waste Generated During the Care of Novel Coronavirus Patients

Based on current information, it has been determined that medical waste generated during the care of patients with novel coronavirus can be managed as normal medical waste. This applies to both patients under investigation (PUIs) and patients with confirmed illness.

In Kansas, medical services waste means solid waste which has the potential to transmit disease or cause injury that is generated during care of patients.

The attached Medical Services Waste Technical Guidance Document (TGD) provides an overview of the proper management of medical services waste and is based on Kansas regulations regarding medical services waste (K.A.R. 28-29-27).

An update to this guidance will be disseminated if new information becomes available that indicates other procedures or precautions should be followed when managing medical waste associated with the care of novel coronavirus patients.

cc Farrah Ahmed, State Epidemiologist
Leo Henning, Deputy Secretary of Environment
Ashley Goss, Deputy Secretary of Public Health



Medical Waste Management

Technical Guidance Document SW-2000-G1

This guidance document outlines acceptable practices for health or medical facility personnel who handle, store, and dispose of medical services waste.

Background

This guidance document summarizes the requirements for managing medical services waste in Kansas in accordance with Kansas administrative regulation (K.A.R.) 28-29-27, which defines medical services wastes as those solid waste materials which are potentially capable of causing disease or injury and which are generated in connection with human or animal care through inpatient and outpatient services. The primary reason for establishing and maintaining proper management practices for medical services waste, or medical waste (MW), is to prevent the transmission of disease and injury to persons routinely involved in MW management at health and medical facilities as well as waste haulers.

Management of Medical Waste

Medical waste should be managed according to the following standards, which are illustrated in the flowchart on the next page:

- The medical waste must be placed in containers which are:
 - closable;
 - constructed to contain all contents and prevent leakage of fluids; and
 - closed prior to being moved for storage or transported for disposal.
- In accordance with OSHA standards for bloodborne pathogens, all containers holding such regulated waste must comply with the applicable requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1030.
- To remove or minimize the potential for MW to cause disease or injury, the facility may process the medical waste by incineration or sterilization using autoclaving, microwaving, chemical treatment, or other approved methods. If the MW has been processed, the waste can be mixed with general solid waste and transported to a permitted municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF).
- If the medical waste is not processed:
 - The facility may obtain a special waste disposal authorization (SWDA) per K.A.R. 28-29-109 and transport the MW separately to an MSWLF; or
 - The facility may contract with a medical waste company for transportation of the MW to a permitted medical waste processing facility or, with a SWDA, to an MSWLF.

For additional information regarding the proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Kansas, or to obtain a special waste disposal authorization, you may visit the Bureau of Waste Management website at www.kdheks.gov/waste/ or contact the Bureau at: 785-296-1600, kdhe.bwmweb@ks.gov, or the address at the top of this document.

Medical Waste Management Process

Abbreviations:

MSWLF municipal solid waste landfill
MW medical waste

