

Drug Waste Disposal

Date: May 24, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ New drug waste containers (Stericycle CsRx) are installed and ready to use across areas on site where medications are prepared and wasted. The Stericycle CsRx containers are installed to provide safe, effective disposal for drug waste in alignment with all regional and health authority requirements.
- ▶ The Stericycle CsRx drug waste containers are located in various areas including the medication rooms, patient rooms, anesthesia carts, treatment rooms, soiled utility rooms, clean utility rooms, simulation rooms, procedure rooms, treatment rooms, etc. These locations were verified with every clinical program before installation.
- ▶ The Stericycle CsRx container promotes safety for staff, patients/families and visitors by providing a container that renders drug waste un-usable and un-retrievable. Appropriate disposal in the approved container also supports the prevention of environmental contamination by pharmaceuticals.
- ▶ The [CW Procedure: Drug Waste Disposal - Clinical Staff](#) and the [CW Standard Work: Drug Waste Disposal Process for Support Staff](#) provide clear steps for the use of the new Stericycle CsRx drug waste container.

What's new...What's the same?

- Drug wastes are disposed of in the new Stericycle CsRx container. Permitted drug wastes include expired drugs, contaminated drugs, unusable drugs and partial dose drugs.
- Non-permitted drug waste continue to be disposed as per usual processes. Refer to Appendix B of [CW Procedure: Drug Waste Disposal - Clinical Staff](#) for details

How does this affect my practice? What do I need to do next?

- **Clinical Staff:**
 - Review the CW Procedure: Drug Waste Disposal – Clinical Staff. Familiarize yourself with the permitted drugs and process for disposing non-permitted drug waste.
 - Familiarize yourself with locations of the new drug waste container in the clinical areas where you work.
- **Support Staff:**
 - Review the CW Standard Work: Drug Waste Disposal Process for Support Staff.
 - Familiarize yourself with locations of all drug waste containers and supplies.

What are some additional resources and supports?

- [PHSA Wastage of Controlled Substances Policy](#)
- [PHSA Drug Diversion of Controlled Substances Policy](#)
- [PHSA Environmental Sustainability Policy](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Hospital Pollution Prevention Bylaw](#)

Who do I contact for further information?

- Your area Operations Leader(s)