

Medical Devices Policy Practice Guidance Note Disposal of Medical Devices–V05		
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1 OUTLINE

- 1.1 It is essential that equipment be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner. Disposal of such items is governed by strict regulations and non-compliance putting people at risk could have serious illegal implications for Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust).

2 DISPOSAL OF USED MEDICAL DEVICES

- 2.1 Disposal of medical devices will be done through an approved and accountable route. The Medical Device Department in conjunction with Facilities and complying to the Trust's policy, CNTW(C) 24, Waste Management, will coordinate disposal within the Trust.
- 2.2 Contact the medical devices administrator when a Medical Device is no longer required. A Medical Devices disposal form (Appendix Form) **must** be completed prior to disposal. A Medical Devices Decontamination Certificate (Link with IPC PGN 10 decontamination form and IPC PGN 31 section 7.15) **must** accompany the medical device at all times and be completed by the member of staff disposing of

the medical device. Staff removing the medical device will refuse to do so if a completed decontamination certificate is not available in accordance with the Trust's policy, CNTW(C)23, Infection, Prevention and Control.

- 2.3 Where appropriate, the Clinical Lead PPE/ Medical Devices will discuss the disposal of certain devices with the Group Nurse Director for Infection, Prevention and Control.
- 2.4 Where the item is or has been of capital value, the Finance Department will be informed by the Medical Devices Administrator before disposal.
- 2.5 If the medical devices use any form of data storage, then this **must** be securely deleted. The I.T. Department must be informed and will assist in this process.
- 2.6 Before medical devices are disposed of, they **must** be decontaminated, a Medical Devices Decontamination Certificate (Appendix 2) **must** be completed. If this is not possible then disposal can only take place if a system of disposal can be found where all statutory and legal responsibilities are observed and the method of disposal is approved. Where appropriate, advice from the equipment manufacturer should be sought.

3 THE MEDICAL DEVICE SHOULD BE MADE SAFE

- 3.1 Any medical device that incorporates components which are governed by specific regulation, e.g. Mercury or Radioactive material; this should be dealt with in accordance with the regulation; Medical Devices Regulations 2002. Statutory Instrument 2002 No 618 ISBN 0110423178,
- 3.2 Any medical device, which contains or could be contaminated with hazardous and difficult waste substances as defined in the defined thresholds, **must** be disposed of according to the Special Waste Regulations. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations

4 EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL WASTE

- Some metals e.g. Mercury
- Oils
- Coolants
- Batteries (e.g. Lead, Cadmium, Lithium and Mercury)
- Radioactive Waste
- Clinical Waste (including waste from related clinical research)
- Electronic Equipment

- 4.1 Components, liquids etc that are part of the medical device, which may be removed and disposed of in a more appropriate manner should be removed and dealt with separately.
- 4.2 The medical device should be made unusable – this should be carried out so that the medical device cannot be reused following a simple action/repair e.g. cutting the

mains plug off the medical device is not considered sufficient to make the device unusable.