



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NEW AUTOCLAVE & SHREDDER



As we move into the fall months, we are starting the season with a new system in place. Since our inception we have processed regulated medical waste with a Sanitec system. We are pleased to announce the startup and operation of our State of the Art Medical Waste Autoclave Sterilizer. Designed and built at the Mark Costello Company in Los Angeles California. The autoclave and 3 million BTU boiler will allow HNHS to successfully operate for many years. This will give us a larger impact in the healthcare arena and fulfill our goal of providing low cost regulated medical waste disposal to not only large hospital groups but to small

quantity generators within the medical community we serve.

This new system, which is one of the largest autoclaves in the state of Michigan, will allow HNHS to process an additional 4 million pounds of regulated medical waste per year and the addition of our new shredding system will allow the same safe shredding our customers have come to expect from HNHS.

Starting in the beginning of 2017, if you would like to schedule a site tour to see our new equipment in action let us know and we would be happy to work with you to accomplish a visit to our facility.



GREEN CORNER - REUSABLE SHARPS CONTAINERS

Per the 2012 study by Practice Greenhealth – “Hospitals generate approximately 26.8 pounds of waste per staffed bed per day. Practice Greenhealth award winning facilities, on average, segregate 9% of that as potentially infectious material, or regulated medical waste. A subset of this 9% is sharps waste – that is, anything that can cut or puncture the skin.” Our facility utilizes Rehrig Pacific Company’s Reusable Sharps Containers for a cost effective and sustainable solution for sharps disposal.

¹ Source Michigan DEQ, Universal Waste, September 2008

UNIVERSAL WASTE PHARMACEUTICAL INCLUDES PHARMACEUTICALS THAT CANNOT BE USED OR ADMINISTERED BECAUSE OF EXPIRATION, CONTAMINATION, OR ANY OTHER REASON.

UNIVERSAL WASTE PHARMACEUTICALS The Value of Water

Why be concerned about Pharmaceuticals? Per the Michigan DEQ and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, “Unused pharmaceuticals are problematic because they do not readily break down once released into the environment. As such they generally remain intact and can be absorbed by other plants, animals, and/or humans.”

According to the state of Michigan the preferred disposal method for unused pharmaceuticals, to include drugs for both human and veterinary use, is incineration. The incineration process is preferred because of high burn temperatures and effective emission-control systems, which are used to prevent unused drugs from cycling back into our water systems.

In July 2012, through a collaboration between MDEQ and MHA a guide was created to assist facilities in the proper disposal of Pharmaceutical Waste Management to include: Bulk Hazardous Pharmaceuticals Waste, Trace Chemotherapy Waste, Universal Waste Pharmaceutical, Non-Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste and Mixed Medical/Dual Waste.

When reviewing the guide, which is available on our website at <http://www.hnv-hnhs.com/resources>, please note that it is available for guidance only and



¹ Source Michigan DEQ, Universal Waste, September 2008

should be used as a tool to help evaluate how to meet applicable regulations.

Some of the advantages for facilities managing their universal waste instead of mixing it in with their hazardous waste follows:

1. Universal waste volume is not included when determining a facility’s hazardous waste generator status.
2. Universal waste can be accumulated for up to one year, which is longer than allowed for hazardous waste.
3. Less labeling is required on universal waste.
4. A hazardous waste manifest is not necessary to ship universal waste that is not a liquid in Michigan.
5. A handler may use a universal waste transporter to haul the universal waste offsite, that is not a liquid, instead of using a permitted and registered hazardous waste transporter.

All pharmaceuticals that are a controlled substance must be handled according to the US DEA requirements. Facilities may request approval from the US DEA to destroy controlled substances on-site or ship them to a US DEA approved disposal facility.¹

HNHS works with Veolia Environmental to incinerate Pharmaceutical Waste. If you would like more information on our Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal services, please let us know.

