



WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

NHSG/POL/RM-OHaS/0807

– Policy and Management Arrangements for the safe disposal of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials

To be read in conjunction with NHS Grampian Waste Disposal Procedures (2013 - 16)

Co-ordinator:
Environment & Safety
Support Manager

Reviewer:
Healthcare Waste
Committee

Approver:
Chief Operating Officer for
NHS Grampian

Signature

Signature

Signature

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NHS Grampian

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This policy is also available in large print and on computer disk. Other formats can be supplied on request.

Please call the Corporate Communications Team on 01224 554400 for a copy.

Policy History		
Date	Version	Amendment
1 April 2005	001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/RM-OH&S/9.3 (version 003) approved
1 April 2006	002 (1 st Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/RM-OH&S/9.3 (version 001 April 2006) approved • Regulatory and Reference details updated • Facilities Directorate duties updated
1 April 2008	003 (2 nd Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/OH&S Pol 0807 (version 2008 - 003) approved • Regulatory and Reference details updated • Facilities Directorate duties updated
1 April 2010	004 (3 rd Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/RM-OHaS Pol 0807 (version – 004 2010 - 13) approved • SHTN 3, Regulatory and Reference details updated • “Healthcare/Clinical Waste” becomes “Healthcare Waste” • “Household/Domestic Waste” becomes “Domestic Waste” • Facilities Directorate duties and contacts updated
1 April 2013	005 (4 th Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/RM-OHaS Pol 0807 (version – 005 2013 - 16) approved • SHTN 3, Regulatory and Reference details updated • “Domestic Waste” subject to recycling or recovery • Duties and contacts updated
28 January 2016	006 (5 th Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document NHSG/POL/RM-OH&S/9.3 (version 006) approved

NHS Grampian
WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY
Policy and Management Arrangements for the disposal of
healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of
all other residual waste and surplus materials

Policy Ref: NHSG/POL/RM-OHaS Pol 0807

Controlled Document: This document can be copied in part or whole but not altered without the express permission of the author or the author's representative.

Expiry Date: None - reviewed triennially.

Author: Environment & Safety Support Team Manager

Policy Application:

- This Policy applies to **ALL** members of staff, contractors and any other party undertaking business or providing health care services on behalf of NHS Grampian;
- The Policy applies to all premises and sites owned or controlled by NHS Grampian;
- The Policy applies to **ALL** wastes that arise from premises, land (owned, leased or used) through delivering NHS Grampian healthcare services. This includes all scrap, surplus materials, assets and moveable equipment, part or whole, which are defined in law as waste;
- This Policy is to be used and read in conjunction with other NHS Grampian policies – in particular, integrated with the Infection Prevention & Control Policy, the Environmental Policy and the Corporate Health and Safety Policy.

Purpose:

- This document sets out the policy objectives, an appropriate framework for the supporting management responsibilities and organisational arrangements, in keeping with statutory and mandatory requirements.
- This document does not contain the specific details of the statutory or mandatory arrangements for waste and material management, which are to be found within Legislation and Scottish Government Health Directorates instructions and supporting guidance (see References).

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Organisational: Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and Management Team Duty Holders

Departmental: Departmental / Line Managers/ All Staff

Policy Statement:

1. NHS Grampian takes seriously the requirements for a structured approach on the safe management of healthcare waste (*which includes clinical waste*), special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials;
2. This framework ensures that health, safety, environmental and financial risks are effectively managed and integrated within the overall risk management

arrangements. A structured management approach also ensures procedures are in accordance with statutory requirements, the National Waste Strategy (Scotland), the Zero Waste Plan and mandatory NHSScotland Instructions;

3. NHS Grampian is committed to the effective and safe management of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials arising. It aims to achieve this through the development of realistic and acceptable risk based procedures, which meet the spirit and letter of the law, the performance standards and the interpretation set out in NHSScotland – Scottish Health Technical Note No 3 – NHSScotland Waste Management Guidance (SHTN 3) and associated suite of guidance;
4. NHS Grampian recognises that the safe management and disposal of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials is a significant management responsibility comparable in importance to other management and performance objectives;
5. NHS Grampian is committed to ensuring compliance with Standing Financial Instructions and all relevant statutory and mandatory requirements by undertaking, maintaining and monitoring the performance of management arrangements and mitigating the risks of the disposal of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials;
6. NHS Grampian will, as far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that healthcare waste, special waste and all other residual waste and surplus materials are secure from areas of public access and properly and efficiently managed throughout, in keeping with the statutory obligations of the Duty of Care (Section 34 Scotland), as prescribed in the Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations: 1991 and all other associated waste management regulations and guidance. Where appropriate and risks are minimal, the strategy will be to reduce, re-use, recycle and recover materials and substances, to avoid unnecessary disposal;
7. NHS Grampian recognises its responsibilities to all its employees, including agency, contract and volunteer staff, under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act: 1974 and associated regulations and will provide with sufficient information, training, supervision, equipment and safe systems of work to carry out their duties in the implementation of this Policy;
8. NHS Grampian recognises its responsibilities to ensure the safe management of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials arising. In order to achieve this, the highest priority will be given to:
 - a. Ensuring throughout that residual waste and surplus materials are kept in a secure location and safeguarded against public access, uncontrolled release, spillage or pollution;
 - b. Minimising the production and associated environmental impact of wastage by reviewing materials used, practices employed and the residuals arising;
 - c. Ensuring that healthcare waste, special waste and all other residual waste and surplus materials are properly and efficiently segregated in the workplace, presented for uplift in appropriate fit for purpose packaging, then handled, stored, transported, recycled, treated, recovered and disposed of appropriately;
 - d. Ensuring procedures for waste and material management are established, adopted, understood and implemented;

- e. Providing information, instruction, training, supervision and monitoring as necessary to ensure the implementation of waste and material management systems;
 - f. Taking cognisance of, and implementing any actions necessary to address relevant matters raised or recommended by Healthcare Waste, Infection Preventions and Control, Health & Safety and Risk Management Committee meetings.
9. NHS Grampian requires the assistance and co-operation of each and every employee and every health care service provider in the pursuit of this policy.

Review: This Policy will be reviewed triennially by the Healthcare Waste Committee.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Designation: _____

NHS Grampian WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy and Management Arrangements for the disposal of healthcare waste, special waste and the recycling or recovery of all other residual waste and surplus materials

INTRODUCTION

NHS Grampian delivers healthcare services across a wide portfolio of settings, resulting in the production of a correspondingly broad range of healthcare waste, special waste and other residual waste and surplus materials. **The presentation of suitably and safely segregated wastes and materials that require a wide range of safe disposal and recycling or recovery technologies has many associated burdens, costs and risks.** The Scottish Government Health Directorates have provided NHS Boards with specific waste, material and environmental management responsibilities to be discharged and obligations to be met in the delivery of healthcare services.

NHS Grampian is obliged to understand a wide range of statutes and legislation broadly contained within the Health and Safety at Work etc Act: 1974 framework and within the Environmental Protection Act: 1990 framework. NHS Grampian is required to assess the risks in the context of the protection of workers engaged in or supporting healthcare delivery, in waste and material management, in the protection of the public and for the local and wider environment.

In the workplace 3 distinct types of waste and surplus materials arise:

- ◆ **healthcare waste (which includes clinical waste)** – arising directly from the delivery of healthcare by clinicians. This includes a wide range of wastes **defined in legislation according to ethical issues, risk of infection and level of infectiousness, or presence of special (hazardous) waste substances** by class, origins or properties – including what may be better known as clinical waste, special waste and low level radioactive waste;
- ◆ **special waste** – arising from the delivery of healthcare in both clinical and non-clinical settings. This includes a very specific range of wastes and waste substances **defined in regulation according to their hazardous characteristics or components**;
- ◆ **all other waste and surplus materials** – arising ancillary to the delivery of healthcare in both clinical and non-clinical settings. This includes a wide range of segregated or mixed dry recyclables, organic & food waste and residual wet or mixed municipal wastes **defined in legislation due to minimal risk of infectiousness or danger from hazardous substances** by origins – including what may be better known as commercial waste, industrial waste, construction/demolition waste, non-hazardous waste. This can include confidential wastes (as defined in the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act: 2002 and the NHS Grampian – Records Management Policy, as Confidential Waste).

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK

Organisational:

The Chief Executive (The Duty Holder), the Chief Operating Officer and Management Teams (Duty Holders) are responsible for:

- Ensuring Operational Procedures Health, Safety, Environment and Risk Management arrangements are in place to meet Policy requirements;
- Providing resources for implementing and maintaining this Policy;
- Reviewing performance of this Policy;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this Policy;
- Communicating and escalated risks through the appropriate management structures.

The General Manager, Facilities and Estates Sector (The Designated Person) is the essential senior management link between NHS Board and its professional support, responsible for:

- Ensuring the Chief Executive (**The Duty Holder**), the Chief Operating Officer and Management Teams (**Duty Holders**) are signed up to, co-ordinate with, and are aware of their devolved responsibilities, duties and the relevant procedures in this policy;
- Identifying Waste and Materials safety risks and non compliance;
- Providing secure storage, uplift, recycling and disposal arrangements (including take back schemes from NHS patients), adequate facilities, resources and competency training to support, implement and maintain all of the aspects of this policy;
- Providing management and annual performance reports to Chief Executive, Management Teams, Infection Prevention and Control, Occupational Health & Safety and Risk Management;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the Policy across NHS Grampian;
- Providing and leading a Healthcare Waste Committee to provide appropriate cross sector expertise, to support, to co-ordinate and to review operational management and controls in accordance with statutory and mandatory requirements;
- Ensuring management actions in accordance with the requirements of SEHD – HDL(2002)43, SGHD CEL 2 (2008) and SHTN 3 by acting as Waste Management Officer supported by the following integrated waste and materials management team:
 - Environment and Safety Support Team Manager – delegated chair of Healthcare Waste Committee and for advice, training, contractual, legal, operational and performance arrangements (including preparation of reports). Contact by 01224 553653;
 - Waste & Water Services Manager - for local operational arrangements, including advice, training and monitoring across all settings. Contact by 01343 567434;
 - Energy & Environment Manager – for general advice on local operational arrangements, training and performance reporting. Contact by 01224 553102;

- Infection Prevention and Control Nurse(s) – for clinical producer procedural and training arrangements, including preparation of reports. Contact by 01224 555035 or 01224 559431;
- Biomedical Scientist(s) – for laboratory arrangements and microbiological advice. Contact by 01224 554295;
- Senior Charge Nurse(s) – for acute and non-acute nursing input. Contact by 01224 552191 (acute) or 01467 670998 (non-acute);
- Supply Chain Manager – for logistical transport arrangements. Contact by 01224 553318;
- Portering Services Manager – for portering arrangements. Contact by 01224 552354;
- Head of Health and Safety – for health, safety and risk advice and incident reporting. Contact by 01224 553298.

Departmental:

Departmental / Line Managers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all staff are **aware** of this Policy **and are familiar with the relevant compliance procedures** and protocol framework associated with the segregation and recycling of materials and disposal of residual wastes;
- Putting into practice, within the protocol framework, the local procedures and safe systems of work which are designed to reduce risks associated to the segregation and recycling of materials and production of waste to its final disposal;
- Ensuring that all staff and workers engaged in healthcare and in waste management have adequate information, training, instruction, supervision and support. This includes refreshing staff knowledge and skills at regular frequencies;
- Monitoring the effectiveness of local compliance procedures and safe systems of work, including annual review of occurrence recording, investigation and management inspections;
- Ensuring that local policies and procedural guidelines are developed and maintained;
- Ensuring staff receive suitable and effective support following any accidents or incidents relating to waste and waste and material management occur;
- Ensuring that specialist arrangements for the disposal of Medicinal Products (medicines) are co-ordinated with Pharmacy and in line with associated Policies;
- Ensuring that specialist arrangements for handling, storing and disposing of specimens and potentially infectious substances are co-ordinated with Laboratory services and in line with associated policies.

All staff and workers engaged in healthcare and in waste management are responsible for:

- Taking precautions and reasonable care with regard to their own safety and that of any other persons who may be affected by their actions and the environment;
- Co-operating with policy, procedures and safe systems of work that are in place to minimise risk to persons and the environment;
- Reporting of all incidents, including near misses that arise;
- Attending the appropriate training and instruction and ensuring practical skills are regularly refreshed;

- Assisting managers with the identification of any risks arising from waste and material management.

PROTOCOL FRAMEWORK AND LOCAL PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Risk Based Approach

Risk Assessment is the fundamental process used to minimise actual or potential harm to persons or the environment. (see NHS Grampian – Risk Assessment Policy) Local managers must identify and assess all risks, by considering the hazards and the severity of harm.

Waste and material management is a complex area subject to Statutory Obligations under the Duty of Care Regulations. All responsible staff require to be fully aware of their Statutory duties as outlined in the pertinent Regulations and guidance. To ensure that ALL local managers are aware of these regulatory aspects, the NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures (based on SHTN 3) provides a core generic protocol framework that supports and provides an interpretation of critical workplace requirements.

The protocol framework adopts as fundamental policy, the waste container (bags & bins) safety colour coding & labelling system and take back schemes from NHS patients to mitigate risk (as detailed in NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures as replicated from SHTN 3).

The General Manager, Facilities and Estates Sector, as Waste Management Officer (supported through the Healthcare Waste Committee) can provide additional support to local managers on the assessment of local waste and material management risks.

As a result of risk assessment all locations where waste and materials arise should have effective control measures in place to manage identified risk. The NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures are central to the protocol framework and compilation of a risk assessment. However, all managers are responsible for developing localised arrangements specific to local needs and NHS patient locations.

Waste and Material Management risk assessment factors:

There are various waste management factors that need to be considered when conducting risk assessment. The waste may be considered to present a hazard and or have perceived or the potential to be of harm to persons or the environment if it demonstrates or contains:

- Infectious or Biohazard characteristics - with reference to Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations [COSHH] with categorisation and classification of infectious substances in hazard groups. These shall be considered in line with the guidance on duties and managing the risk produced by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens [ACDP] and Technical Guidance WM2 [Hazardous Waste] jointly produced by SEPA and EA;
- Hazardous or dangerous substances - Technical Guidance WM2 and HSE EH 40 and other Statutory Lists identify the following hazardous characteristics and/or thresholds for - explosive, oxidising, highly flammable, irritant, harmful, toxic, carcinogenic, corrosive, infectious, teratogenic, mutagenic, eco-toxic, produce toxic gas, or yield leachate;
- Sharp or cutting edges (Glass, Sharps and other intrusive devices etc);
- Radioactive Substances;

- Offensiveness (volume, time and temperature controls).

Or as a result of issues relating to:

- Containment (packaging, storage, handling and transport controls);
- Definition as a “Controlled Waste”;
- The Duty of Care and Waste Hierarchy requirements.

The following risk aspects of the waste, material or management regime should be considered when evaluating the hazards and likelihood of harm to persons or the environment:

- Access and egress; (e.g. to/from clinical environment, handling/storage arrangement, vehicle movements)
- Access by birds, insects or other vermin; (e.g. prevention measures)
- Accessibility to the public or 3rd parties; (e.g. secure prevention measures)
- Fire risk; (e.g. precaution or mitigation measures and waste arrangements considered in Fire Risk Assessment)
- Fit for purpose containment; (e.g. using only the containment (bags/bins) identified in the NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Frequency of uplift; (e.g. appropriateness and risk of contamination or infection)
- Incident reporting procedures and record keeping; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Labelling and marking; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Location of waste arisings and storage; (e.g. appropriateness and risk of contamination)
- Moving and handling; (e.g. appropriateness and working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Patient contact; (e.g. appropriateness and risk of infection or hazard exposure)
- Patient location (e.g. appropriateness of safe storage and awareness of take back schemes to avoid inappropriate or unsafe disposal)
- Perceptions about the waste; (e.g. working to risk mitigation identified in NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Potential and procedures for dealing with spillage; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Presence and management of substances hazardous to health; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Presence of medicinal products (medicines); (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Presence of metal objects; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Procedure for returning certain medicinal products to pharmacy; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Procedure for presenting waste for uplift and disposal; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Procedures Involving Sharps/Syringe discharge; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Procedure to avoid potential disposal of hazardous wastes and substances to drain; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Risks requiring immunisation; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Security risks; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Segregation; (e.g. working to NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures)
- Temperature; (e.g. impact on variable temperatures and change of state or odour release)
- Staff training and experience;
- Transportation, driving and vehicle movement; (workplace transport and dangerous

goods movement regulations)

- Welfare of staff, patients and any other persons; (health and safety regulations)
- Any other risk specific to the individual's role.

Managing the Risk

The risk presented should be reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable. If the risk assessment shows that it is not possible for the waste or material to be safely handled, stored, decontaminated, recycled, treated or disposed of using the NHS Grampian Waste Disposal Procedures, then other arrangements must be put in place in co-ordination with the Healthcare Waste Committee. **Local managers and the producer of the waste have prime responsibility for the Duty of Care, the associated Waste Hierarchy and all aspects of health, safety and environmental protection, wherever NHS Grampian healthcare services are delivered.**

Training

Regulated Statutory and Mandatory requirements lead to increased competence levels and capabilities. (e.g. such as through knowledge and skills framework [KSF]) The appropriate level of training to staff will be provided based on the needs identified through risk assessment conducted at local level. Advice and guidance on available training can be obtained from the Risk Training Co-ordinator or from the Facilities Learning and Development Manager, by contact on 01343 567304. The NHS training directory can be found on the NHS Grampian Intranet site.

Occurrence Recording

All persons and workers engaged in healthcare and in waste and material management should report all incidents including near misses. Local Managers should be informed and Datix, and any forms completed and processed as soon as possible following the incident. This will ensure compliance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR): 1995. All incidents must be recorded to ensure accurate information, to enable intelligent trend analysis, which will help with future planning for reduction target initiatives and improving safe systems of work.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Local managers are required to monitor their local policies, the local procedural arrangements, risk register and incident analysis.

The General Manager, Facilities and Estates Sector will provide an annual report of performance for discussion with Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Management Teams, Infection Prevention and Control, Occupational Health & Safety and Risk Management.

REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Healthcare Waste Committee meets bi-monthly, and reports progress as a recurring agenda item. In addition, the Committee will, on behalf of the General Manager, Facilities and Estates Sector, annually review corporate progress in relation to the effectiveness of the Waste Management Policy and associated Procedures. The report will be submitted annually to the Health & Safety Committee,

Risk Management Group, Staff Governance Committee and their associated Partnership Committees.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Chief Executive
Chief Operating Officer
Operational Management & Sector Teams
Human Resources
Health & Safety Management Committee
Healthcare Waste Committee
Occupational Health Service
Infection Prevention & Control
Risk Management Support Unit
Public Health Department
Corporate Communications
Staff Side Representatives
Planning Directorate
General Manager Facilities & Estates
Facilities & Estates Management Teams
Learning and Development
GP Premises Group
Aberdeen University Estates
Leased / Rented Property Owners
Corporate Communications Global Mail NHS Grampian

REFERENCES

The following are to be read and used in conjunction with the NHS Grampian Waste Management Policy:

Ref	Title	Comments
1	NHS Grampian – Environmental Policy	This policy provides the NHS Grampian statement of commitment to the Environment, which is central to waste management strategy.
2	NHS Grampian - Waste Disposal Procedures	The core generic protocol framework describing the local procedures and safe systems of work. These are designed to reduce risks arising from waste and materials management practices within NHS Grampian, from production in the workplace to ensuring safe recycling, recovery of materials and or final disposal of wastes.
3	NHS Grampian – Waste Segregation Chart	A3 generic Waste Segregation Chart for all persons and workers engaged in healthcare and in waste and materials management.
4	NHS Grampian – Waste Segregation Chart - DENTAL	A4 Waste Segregation Chart for all persons and workers engaged in healthcare and in waste and materials management in the DENTAL SETTING.
5	NHS Grampian – Waste Segregation Chart - DECONTAM	A4 Waste Segregation Chart for all persons and workers engaged in joint NHSS / Local Authority decontamination of low risk equipment from the community.
6	SEHD – HDL(2002)43	Scottish Executive Health Department instructions and Action Plan (2002) on Waste Management in NHS Scotland.
7	SGHD – CEL 2 (2008)	Scottish Government Health Directorates Chief Executive Letter for action on the waste management priorities highlighted in the Waste Management in NHSScotland Action Plan (2007).
8	HFS - Waste Management in NHSScotland Action Plan (2007)	Contains key recommendations relating to policies and procedures, waste security, re-use, recovery and recycling, waste audits, staff awareness of segregation of waste and consistency in use of waste volume reporting.
9	HFS - NHSScotland suite of waste management guidance - including SHTN 3	Core waste management guidance for NHS Boards. SHTN 3 includes specific guidance on the management of materials and disposal of healthcare (including clinical) waste to meet SEHD – HDL(2002)43 and SGHD – CEL 2 (2008).
10	SOHHD – MEL(1993)79	Specific Scottish Office instructions on the use of Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation.
11	SOHHD – MEL(1997)20	Specific additional Scottish Office instructions on changes in legislation and means of enforcement relevant to the protection of patients in the use of Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation.
12	SOHHD – DGM(1992)4	Withdrawn.

13	SGHD/CMO(2012)7	Specific Scottish Government instructions on the disposal of pregnancy losses up to and including 23 weeks and 6 days gestation. It does not change procedures for the disposal of placentae.
14	HPS – The National Infection Prevention and Control Manual	Core standards for the control of infection, with co-ordination on disposal of resulting wastes.
15	The European Waste Catalogue (EWC 2002)	Details the steps for identifying wastes listed in the Catalogue and determining hazardous waste status and classification code. Waste producers have a duty to use to these codes to correctly classify and describe their waste when it is consigned for uplift.
16	WM 2 – Joint Agencies Guidance on Hazardous Waste (SEPA/EA)	Hazardous Waste: Interpretation of the definition and classification of hazardous waste.
17	The Waste (Scotland) Regulations: 2012 and the amended Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations in Scotland	<p>The Regulations sets out the Scottish Government’s Zero Waste Plan, the requirements for separate collection of key recyclable materials by the introduction of high quality recycling and shifting the focus away from waste being an unwanted burden, towards being a valued resource which can provide opportunities for sustainable growth in a low carbon economy.</p> <p>The Duty of Care legislation in Scotland requires every organisation (such as NHS Grampian) whose activities produce waste, to have a duty to take “all reasonable steps” to increase the quality and quantity of recyclable materials, as well as to keep their wastes safe.</p> <p>It was introduced through Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act: 1990 and covers any persons who produce, import, carry, keep, treat, dispose or broker controlled waste, or anyone who carries out pre-processing, mixing or other operations which result in a change in the nature or composition of waste.</p> <p>The Duty requires ALL persons to take all reasonable steps to apply the Waste Hierarchy in priority order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote and manage high quality recycling of materials and safe waste disposal; • ensure that there is no unauthorised or harmful deposit, treatment or disposal of any waste; • prevent the escape of any waste from their control or that of any other person; • ensure that all waste is only transferred to an authorised person and that a written description of the waste is also transferred. <p>Breach of the Duty of Care or of these Regulations is a criminal offence.</p>