

**IDENTIFICATION, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS
WASTE
Policy No. 7-026**

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the instruction of patients and family/caregivers in the identification, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

POLICY

Patients will receive information and instruction regarding the identification, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes, in accordance with and applicable law regulations.

PROCEDURE

1. Upon admission, the patient assessment will include educational needs related to the identification, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.
2. The assessment will include, but will not be limited to:
 - A. The potential need for and use of puncture-resistant needle containers
 - B. The potential need for and use of bags for soiled dressing/linens
 - C. The potential need for and use of gloves and protective clothing
3. The assessment will include the appropriate actions for both the clinician as well as the patient and family/caregiver while receiving home health services.
4. Each patient who has the potential for handling and disposing of hazardous materials will receive information on bloodborne pathogens standards, as well as the home safety information that addresses hazardous waste in the home setting.
5. The materials should be reviewed initially with the patient and family/caregiver to assess their understanding of the actions to be taken to protect themselves. Completion of this instruction and full understanding are necessary prior to the patient and family/caregiver assuming care and performing interventions that may put them at risk.
6. On subsequent visits, clinicians will observe patient and family/caregiver performing appropriate care activities using information learned from the clinicians. Failure to perform activities according to accepted standards will result in re-instruction.

7. Documentation of patient and family/caregiver instruction in the clinical record will include:
 - A. Information taught
 - B. Adaptations made to the environment
 - C. Patient and family/caregiver understanding
 - D. Return demonstrations in use of equipment/procedures, if appropriate
 - E. Response to teaching
 - F. Additional learning needs