

Segregation of Biomedical waste- Need of an hour

Bio-medical waste which is segregated at the point of generation should continue to remain in the same waste category during storage, transportation till final disposal. Only 10- 25% of waste generated at health care facilities is hazardous and requires appropriate management. Nearly 75-90% of waste generated at health care facilities is non-hazardous or general waste in nature. Hence, a sizable portion of waste generated is recyclable. Segregation, as a system in place will help separate hazardous and non-hazardous waste and contribute to minimizing the quantum of hazardous waste.

Segregation is the primary step and the "HEART" of safe management of biomedical waste management. Simply put across segregation means collection and separation of different types of waste right from the point of generation to final disposal.

As all are well aware, we are going through a very difficult situation across the world of COVID-19 pandemic. Treatment of COVID-19 patients involves generation of COVID-19 waste. Similarly laboratories involved in COVID-19 testing and quarantine centres where suspected people are kept is also generating huge COVID-19 waste and its scientific disposal is a major challenge in front of all state governments.

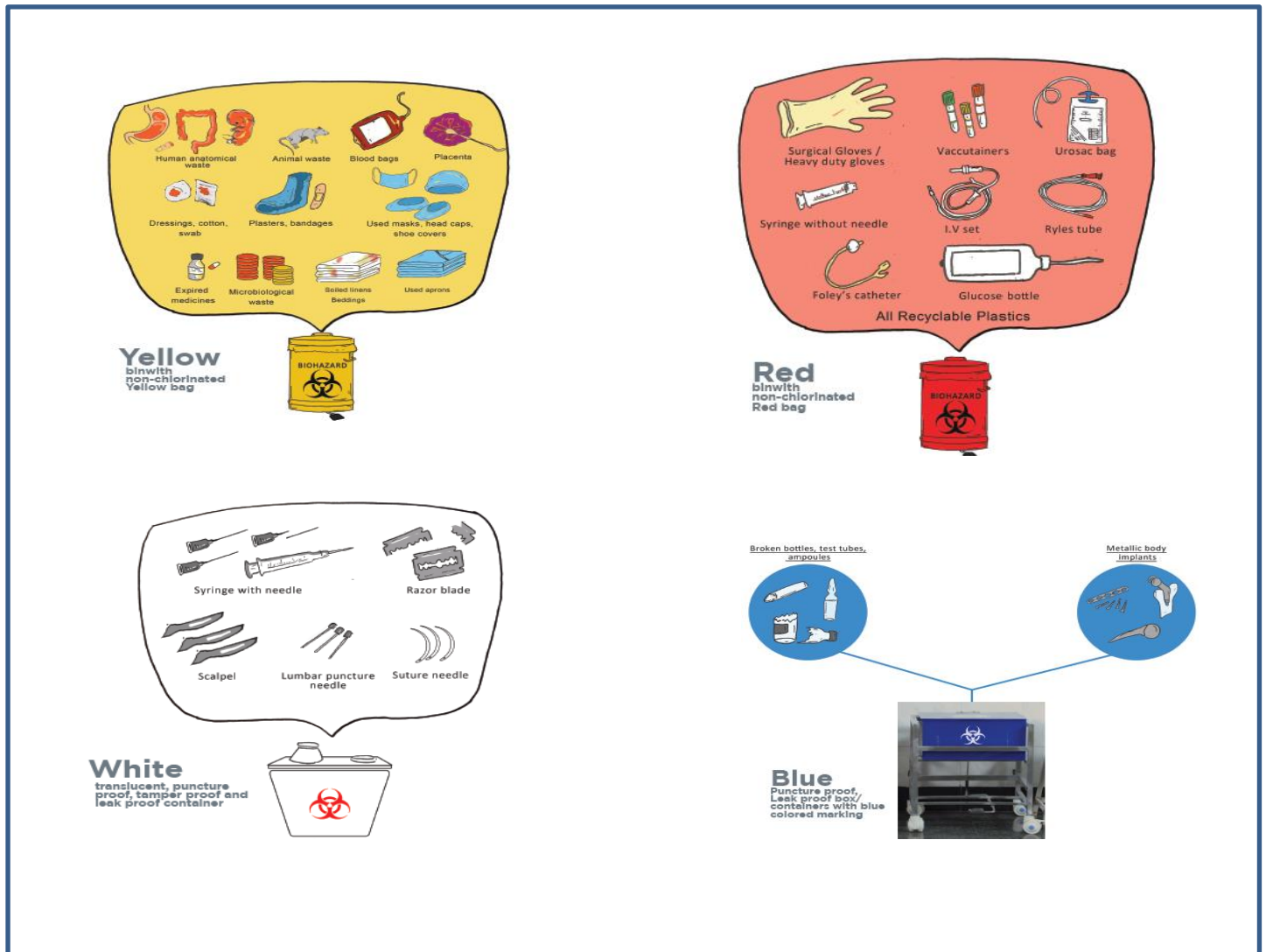
CPCB has come up with guidelines for handling this COVID-19 waste and amended on twice as there was need of proper segregation was needed. Due to improper segregation and threat amongst healthcare workers everting generated was coming to CBWTF which is absolutely wrong.

CBWTF is designed for Bio-medical waste and along with COVID-19 waste all waste associated with COVID-19 waste is mixed which shall be treated as per **SWM Rules 2016**.

All HCE's shall clearly understood that the common Biomedical waste facilities are made to treat Biomedical waste only and it shall be used for the same and proper segregation will ensure proper disposal of infectious waste.

BENEFITS OF SEGREGATION: Following are some important benefits of BMW segregation.

1. Minimizes the quantity of infectious / hazardous waste that needs special handling and treatment
2. Prevents the mixture of medical waste like sharps with the general municipal waste
3. Reduces the risks of exposure to hazardous health care waste for workers and hence reduce the chance of spread of infection/ injuries
4. Reduces the cost of treatment of waste and its disposal as a result segregation helps in saving resources.
5. Segregation prolongs the operational life of the disposal facility
6. Prevents pilferage of certain waste like used syringes, needles and other plastics.
7. Plastic waste if recycled after appropriate treatment can be used for non-food grade applications
8. Hospital aesthetics will be maintained.



Segregation of Bio-medical Waste

Proper segregation from HCE during these tough times will also help CBWTF and government to restrict spread of COVID-19 as Covid-19 has very high risk of spread if not handles properly. Implementation of COVID-19 guidelines in totality will definitely help India to prevent spread through waste.

References:

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