

SECTION 3

SPECIFICATION FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE FROM COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Health Boards are required by the Scottish Office Department of Health to provide a service whereby medicines no longer required by the public can be returned to a community pharmacist. The Health Board then arranges for the material to be uplifted and disposed of by incineration. With the introduction of recent legislation that requires the use of licensed containers and disposal sites, most Health Boards now use the services of a registered commercial contractor to provide this service.

2. STANDARDS

2.1 The services to be provided are for the collection and disposal of medicines no longer required by members of the public which are returned to community pharmacist located within the Health Board area.

2.2 The waste to be collected will consist of medicines returned by patients and may be:

- solid dose forms (tablets/capsules)
- liquid dose forms (including ampoules)
- medicinal aerosols
- creams and ointments

2.3 The waste may contain:

- drugs controlled by Misuse of Drugs Act
- cytotoxic Drugs

2.4 Where possible, and only if safe to do so, outer packaging should be removed.

2.5 The disposal agent will provide an appropriate container to allow collection of the waste within the pharmacy. The container will:

- have a minimum volume of 20 litres
- comply with the appropriate British Standards
- comply with all safety requirements
- be suitable for the types of waste to be collected
- be appropriately labelled (including instructions and warning labels)

2.6 The container will be uplifted from each site at least twice per year or as agreed by the individual Health Board.

2.7 Each site from which waste is collected will be provided with one or more containers as required to meet the anticipated quantity of material to be collected.

3. RECORDS

3.1 The disposal agent will maintain the following records:

- The number of containers uplifted
- The location from which the containers were uplifted
- The date on which the containers were uplifted

3.2 The disposal agent will provide the Health Board with the gross weight of waste uplifted immediately following each uplift.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE

4.1 The disposal agent will undertake an audit of the service using these standards at least once a year.

4.2 The disposal agent will provide clear instructions and advice to the holder of the waste, i.e. the pharmacists, regarding the completion of the consignment notes and/or any other documentation associated with this service.

4.3 The waste will be collected and disposed of in accordance with all appropriate legal requirements and guidance including following:

- Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Registration of Carriers 1992
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971/1985
- Safe disposal of Clinical Waste 1992
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Advisory Notes from Department of Environment, Scottish Office NHS Executive
- Health Guidance Notes: Safe Disposal of Clinical Waste
- Waste Management Duty of Care "A Code of Practice 1992"

4.4. The disposal agent will provide the Health Board with the following records:

- the number of containers uplifted
- the location from which the containers were uplifted
- the date on which the containers were uplifted
- details of the gross weight of each uplift
- annual audit of service undertaken by disposal agent

N.B. The service does **NOT** include pharmaceutical waste generated by the producer i.e. the pharmacist, or the disposal of chemicals for which separate arrangements must be made with a registered disposal agent.