

KNOW YOUR HOSPITAL WASTE

TYPICAL WASTE BREAKDOWN IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

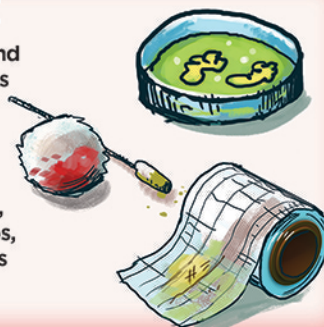
GENERAL WASTE

Corrugated cardboard boxes, newspapers and magazines, polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE), polystyrene packaging, wood, paper, metals, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) clear, coloured or mixed glass, and construction and demolition debris



INFECTIOUS WASTE

Waste contaminated with blood and its by-products, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, waste from patients in isolation wards, discarded diagnostic samples containing blood and body fluids, infected animals from laboratories, and contaminated materials (swabs, bandages) and equipment (such as disposable medical devices)



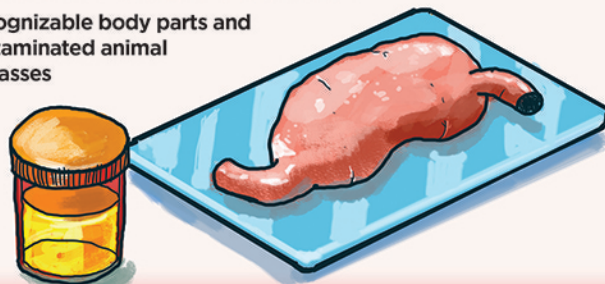
CHEMICAL WASTE

Chemicals such as mercury, solvents and disinfectants



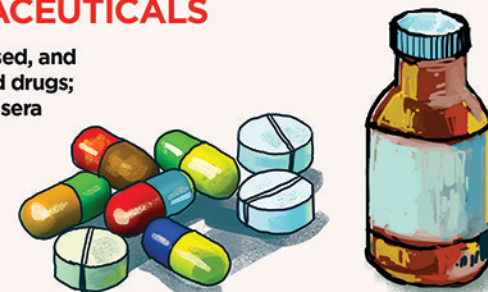
PATHOLOGICAL WASTE

Recognizable body parts and contaminated animal carcasses



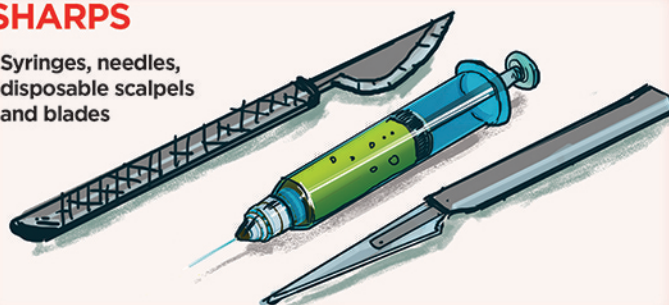
PHARMACEUTICALS

Expired, unused, and contaminated drugs; vaccines and sera



SHARPS

Syringes, needles, disposable scalpels and blades



GENOTOXIC WASTE

Highly hazardous, mutagenic, teratogenic or carcinogenic, such as cytotoxic drugs used in cancer treatment and their metabolites



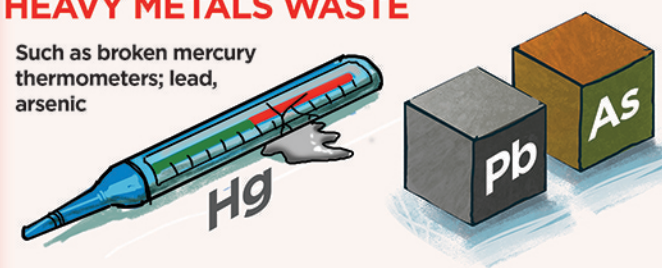
RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Such as glassware contaminated with radioactive diagnostic material or radiotherapeutic materials



HEAVY METALS WASTE

Such as broken mercury thermometers; lead, arsenic



Of the total amount of waste generated by healthcare activities, approximately 80% is general waste.

The remaining 20% is considered hazardous material that may be infectious, toxic or radioactive.

BREAKDOWN OF HAZARDOUS WASTES:

15%

INFECTIOUS AND PATHOLOGICAL / ANATOMIC WASTES

3%

CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

1%

GENOTOXIC, RADIOACTIVE AND HEAVY METALS

1%

SHARPS

HAZARDS OF IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

21 MILLION HEPA B VIRUS INFECTIONS

2 MILLION HEPA C VIRUS INFECTIONS



260,000 HIV INFECTIONS

Diseases transmitted with the use of contaminated syringes. World Health Organization, 2000.

The re-use of disposable syringes and needles for injections is particularly common in certain African, Asian and Central and Eastern European countries.



The waste handlers are at immediate risk of needle-stick injuries and exposure to toxic or infectious materials.



for more info, visit: noharm-asia.org