

## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE

The Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR 1910.1030 (<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>), defines regulated waste as follows:

“Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM); contaminated items that would release blood or OPIM in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or OPIM and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or OPIM.”

Medical waste is healthcare waste that that may be contaminated by blood, body fluids, or OPIM and is often referred to as regulated medical waste.

### **What Medical Waste is Regulated?**

Regulated medical waste (RMW) is material generated in research, production, and testing of biologicals or health care and include, but are not limited to:

- Infectious animal waste
- Human pathological waste
- Human blood and blood products
- Needles, syringes, scalpels (sharps)
- Cultures and stocks (microbiological materials)
- Other infectious waste (i.e.: materials contaminated with infectious agents such as from viruses)
- Bandages and dressings

Regulated medical waste must be properly treated to destroy disease-causing organisms prior to disposal at an authorized solid waste management facility.

### **What should not be mixed with regulated medical waste?**

Just because an item is soiled does not necessarily mean that it should be considered regulated medical waste. Items include, but are not limited to:

- Materials contaminated with certain bodily fluids, such as urine, feces, nasal secretions, sweat, spit, or vomit animal waste
- Non-contaminated personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a surgical mask
- Loose sharps or reusable sharps containers
- General trash
- Batteries
- Uncontaminated packaging
- Potentially explosive materials (i.e.: aerosol cans, inhalers)
- Used hygiene products
- Medications and pharmaceuticals

Additional University resources: <https://www.luc.edu/environmentalservices/index.shtml>