



# News Release

Date: November 19, 2009  
To: All Media  
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**Re: New Medical Waste Policy**

(New Hanover County)— The New Hanover County Department of Environmental Management is implementing a new policy on medical waste. This new policy is in compliance with all rules regarding the disposal of medical waste in North Carolina. The Landfill and Wastec facilities will accept non-regulated medical waste generated at homes, hospitals, doctor offices, clinics, etc. located within New Hanover County.

The new medical waste policy will be as follows:

**Homeowners**

Individual homeowners who generate used sharps in the course of administering medications to themselves or family members should follow the steps outlined below:

1. Sharps shall be placed in a container which is rigid, leak-proof when in an upright position, and puncture-resistant. An example would be an empty liquid laundry detergent bottle.
2. The sharps container should be brought directly to the WASTEC facility or New Hanover County Landfill and placed into the provided collection bin by the homeowner.

\*Please do not throw sharps away in your regular trash.

**Non-Homeowners**

Medical waste generating facilities such as doctor's offices, clinics, outpatient surgical centers etc. are expected to collect, treat, manage and dispose of their medical waste according to the rules found in **15A NCAC 13B SECTION .1200 - MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT**. Even though these rules allow for disposal of certain "*non-regulated medical waste*" and "*regulated medical waste*" that has been treated in municipal solid waste landfills,

Department policy is not to accept used sharps at its facilities in order to minimize possible contact by its employees and the general public. Therefore, these facilities must plan to manage their used sharps separately from other non-regulated medical waste.

Medical waste generating facilities shall place “*non-regulated medical waste*” inside red plastic bags before placing such waste into a refuse container intended for collection and disposal at a New Hanover County disposal facility.

Further information may be obtained by calling 910-798-4400.

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