



# TRADE WASTE FACT SHEET

## BEST BUSINESS PRACTICE FOR MEDICAL PRACTICES

Elimination of unwanted medical wastes entering the sewage system is an achievable standard to set within all practices. Adopting the following practices and ensuring your pre-treatment infrastructure is serviced as per the frequency set on your approval will improve the operational efficiency of your pretreatment system.

### MINIMISING MEDICAL WASTE ENTERING THE SEWER

Isaac Regional Council (Council) recommends that the following steps be employed in your business, where applicable:

- NO solids are to enter the sewer. i.e. hypodermic needles, syringes, bandages, swabs, dressings, instruments, utensils.
- Utilise bins and other appropriate disposal facilities for solid wastes.
- Install dry basket arrestors and strainers in sinks and floor drains to trap solid waste.
- NO disposing of Clinic Waste including liquid wastes involved with laboratory & specimen testing, human tissues including free-flowing blood and image processing into the sewage system.
- Aqueous pathological wastes must be stored, handled and disposed according to any relevant guidelines adopted by National Health, Medical Research Council & Queensland Health.<sup>1</sup>
- Mercury and anything containing Mercury waste must not be discharged into the Sewer.<sup>2</sup>
- Relocate process areas away from drains to prevent materials from entering drains.
- Educate staff in the correct disposal of waste products.
- If dry basket arrestors are installed, delegate someone to clean them out once a week.
- Minimise the use of strong cleaning chemicals such as caustic or chlorine-based cleaning products, or else minimise their entry to sewer, as these chemicals have an adverse effect on the sewerage system.
- Use biodegradable detergents.

Elimination of medical wastes entering the sewer at the source potentially reduces the cost to Council for maintenance of infrastructure and treatment of wastewater.

For more information, contact Council's Building Services department on 1300 ISAACS (472 227), or visit [www.isaac.qld.gov.au](http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au).

<sup>1</sup> Clinical Waste that has undergone pre-treatment to render it non-infectious/non-hazardous or has been risk assessed and approved in writing by both Queensland Health and Isaac Regional Council as safe for sewer disposal may be approved for discharge and trade waste charges will apply. Approval holders must comply with Queensland waste disposal regulations applicable to clinical waste, including the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Trade Waste Acceptance Standard for mercury is very low. Therefore, in general terms, mercury and anything containing mercury should not be discharged into Isaac Regional Council's sewerage infrastructure. Approval holders must comply with Queensland waste disposal regulations applicable to mercury and anything containing mercury, including the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000. In accordance with ISO/CD 11 143, dental practitioners should install amalgam separators to remove mercury from trade waste streams containing amalgam residues. This includes cuspidor waste collected from dental chairs.