**Practice Waste policy**

Aim

* To correctly apply the waste hierarchy to any goods bought and used by the practice and all waste generated.
* To ensure correct management of all waste by the practice.
* To ensure appropriate segregation, categorisation and disposal of waste

All goods and items bought and used by the practice become waste at the end of their useful life. Correct application of the legally required waste hierarchy can reduce the impact of healthcare generated waste in several ways:

* **Reducing** use of resources, particularly single use
* **Reuse** resources where clinically safe to do so
* **Recycle** resources which are suitable for recycling once they can no longer be used
* **Correctly** disposing of waste in the correct bin.
* Our practice ensures our staff are aware of, and trained in the use of, the waste hierarchy approach and ensure resources are available for compliance (e.g. appropriate number of different types of bin, labelling etc).

Reducing the amount of resources used (especially single use goods) results in a reduction in the amount of waste generated

* Our practice commits to reviewing the processes and pathways in place with a view to implementing the pathways which achieve patient and staff benefits (e.g. delivering safe and effective care) with the lowest environmental impact.
* Our practice aims to reduce the volume of waste generated to a minimum through correct purchasing, procurement, clinical and non clinical pathways etc.

Reusing equipment and extending the lifespan of goods in use through repair and maintenance reduces waste generated.

* Our practice reviews single use medical equipment with a view to reviewing the options to increase reusable equipment at least every 3 years.
* Our practice will consider the repair, refurbishment, reconditioning, renovation, restoration, revamping and rejuvenation of all goods prior to them entering the waste stream.

The waste that is generated needs to be disposed of in the most appropriate waste stream. Inappropriate disposal increases environmental emissions and financial costs.

* Our practice correctly segregate waste into recycling, domestic waste, offensive waste, clinical waste, confidential waste and sharps as appropriate.

Reviewing waste disposal is an ongoing commitment by the practice.

* Our practice carries out a waste audit at least every 3 years to ensure correct segregation of waste.
* Our practice aims for zero waste disposed of incorrectly.