



**PROLINQ** Ltd  
CLINICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

## **Clinical Waste Compliance Guide**

### **For UK Healthcare Practices**

Produced by Prolinq Ltd – Clinical Waste Management Specialists

This guide explains how healthcare providers can safely manage and dispose of clinical waste in compliance with UK regulations such as HTM 07■01 and Duty of Care legislation.

## 1. What Is Clinical Waste?

- Clinical waste refers to waste produced from healthcare or related activities that may pose a risk of infection or injury.
- Examples include sharps, contaminated dressings, pharmaceutical waste, and laboratory waste.

## 2. UK Regulations Governing Clinical Waste

- Healthcare waste management in the UK is governed by multiple regulations including HTM 07-01 guidance.
- The Environmental Protection Act and Duty of Care regulations require businesses to ensure waste is handled safely.
- Hazardous Waste Regulations apply to infectious and pharmaceutical waste.

## 3. Colour Coding of Waste Containers

- Yellow containers – Infectious waste requiring incineration.
- Orange containers – Infectious waste suitable for treatment.
- Purple containers – Cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines.
- Yellow and black tiger bags – Offensive waste.

## 4. Safe Sharps Disposal

- Sharps include needles, scalpels, and other items capable of puncturing skin.
- Sharps must be disposed of in approved UN-certified sharps containers.
- Containers should never be filled beyond the indicated fill line.

## 5. Storage of Clinical Waste

- Waste must be stored securely in designated storage areas.
- Storage areas must be clearly labelled and inaccessible to the public.
- Healthcare providers should not store waste longer than recommended time limits.

## 6. Staff Training Requirements

- All staff handling clinical waste must receive training.

- Training should cover segregation, safe handling procedures, and emergency protocols.

## **7. Documentation and Duty of Care**

- Waste Transfer Notes must be retained for a minimum of two years.
- Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes must be maintained where applicable.
- You must verify that your waste contractor is licensed.

## **8. Choosing a Licensed Waste Carrier**

- Healthcare businesses must use licensed waste carriers.
- Ensure your provider supplies documentation and compliant containers.
- Regular collection schedules prevent storage risks.

## **9. Common Compliance Mistakes**

- Incorrect waste segregation.
- Overfilled sharps containers.
- Using unlicensed waste contractors.

## **10. Benefits of Professional Waste Management**

- Improves infection control.
- Ensures regulatory compliance.
- Reduces risk of penalties.

## **11. Industries That Produce Clinical Waste**

- Dental practices
- GP surgeries
- Tattoo studios
- Aesthetic clinics
- Care homes

## **12. Clinical Waste Collection Best Practices**

- Use scheduled waste collection services.
- Ensure containers are replaced regularly.
- Maintain documentation for inspections.

### **13. Preparing for Inspections**

- Ensure documentation is easily accessible.
- Verify staff training records.
- Ensure waste segregation procedures are followed.

### **14. Emergency Spill Procedures**

- Have spill kits available.
- Ensure staff know the correct response procedure.
- Report incidents according to internal protocols.

### **15. About Prolinq Ltd**

- Prolinq Ltd provides professional clinical waste management services for healthcare providers across the UK.
- Our services include sharps disposal, clinical waste collection, and regulatory compliance support.