



Ministry of Health
Department of Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Control
Infection Prevention and Control Section



**INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL GUIDELINES IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS FOR
MANAGEMENT OF WASTE WHILE CARING FOR SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED CASES
OF EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)**

Version 1 – Aug 2014, MOH/DCDSC/IC



Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines in Healthcare Settings For Management Of Waste While Caring For Suspected/Confirmed Cases Of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Purpose of this Document

This document outlines infection prevention & control for the management of waste generated, primarily within healthcare settings, during caring for patients who are suspected or confirmed with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). It should be used in conjunction with the current policies and guidelines on management of healthcare waste and the Infection Prevention & Control Manual, 2nd Edition, 2013. The purpose of the guidelines is to:

- Give clear directions about classification, transportation and disposal of waste generated during care of EVD patients
- Dispose of infectious waste in a manner that prevent potential hazard to the environment and public
- Prevent staff injuries from exposure to contaminated waste
- Ensure safety of healthcare workers , housekeeping and cleaners staff

Management of Waste

- o **All the waste** generated during care of confirmed and suspected cases of EVD is considered as infectious waste. For the purpose of dealing with such cases, this includes linens, mop heads and disposable cleaning materials.
- o The waste should be collected in yellow bags (Leak proof, labelled with universal biohazard symbol and not less than 150 micron in thickness).
- o Sharp items such as used needles or scalpel blades should be collected in puncture-resistant sharp container and placed inside the yellow waste bag and sealed with self-lock plastic cable tie.
- o Excretions (feces, urine) may be carefully poured down the dedicated patient toilet, taking care to avoid splashes. In case of disposable urinals it must be disposed as infectious waste.
- o Collect the waste in double yellow bags and seal them with self-lock plastic cable tie.
- o Transfer the waste in closed yellow trolley (easy to clean and disinfect, Leak proof, labelled with universal biohazard symbol dedicated for infectious waste and easy to maneuver) to avoid contamination of the environment.
- o Infection control teams should train and supervise HCWs and cleaners on the appropriate method to manage the waste, and the use of personal protective



equipments. Management of waste should be performed only by trained personnel. Infection control teams should liaise with Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) team for training and supervision.

- Healthcare workers (HCWs) and cleaners involved in the collection, transfer and treatment of this waste should wear heavy duty/rubber gloves, impermeable gown, closed shoes (e.g. boots) and facial protection (mask and goggle or face shield), when handling infectious waste.
- **Healthcare facilities** should arrange for immediate autoclave or incineration of the waste.
- If autoclave is available at the facility, arrangement should be made to autoclave the waste before it leaves the facility. Otherwise, transfer the waste in closed yellow trolley (see above) for incineration.
- The waste should be stored (temporarily) in appropriate storage area if the immediate transfer or treatment (i.e. incineration or autoclaving) is not possible,. The waste should not be left to accumulate in the patient room/area or in the corridors.
- The area dedicated for waste storage should
 - Have impermeable hard standing floor easy to clean and disinfect.
 - Have good drainage system
 - Room Temperature is controlled Between (15 – 18 C°)
 - Separation of general waste and infectious waste
 - Have water supply for cleaning purposes
 - Have access for the trained staff handling the waste
 - Lockable to prevent access for unauthorized person
 - Have easy access to waste –collection vehicles
 - Have protection from sun
 - Be inaccessible to animals, insects and bird
 - Not situated in the proximity of fresh food stores and food preparation areas.
 - Have supply for cleaning equipment, personal protective equipments (PPEs) and waste bags or containers
 - Have washing basin with running water and soap
 - Be cleaned regularly
 - Have spill kits
 - Appropriate to the volume of waste generated.