

MEASURES TO HELP ASSIST WITH PROPER MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Increase Quality Assurance through:

- Increased surveillance/monitoring of patient areas including trash receptacles
- Consider contracting with a consultant to audit current practices of collection, consolidation and removal of the various waste streams [Medical Waste (MW); Hazardous Waste; Pharmaceutical Waste]
- Provide continuing education through regular training regarding the various handling of the various waste streams
- Keep logs of persons responsible for cleaning/disinfecting/removing waste from high MW activity areas such as: OR's, ER (ED), ICU, Cath-Lab, Labor Delivery, Procedure Rooms, Isolation Rooms, etc.
 - ❖ Logs should include date, time, and staff initials after each room is serviced

Use only clear plastic bags in garbage receptacles

- Enables trash/solid waste removers to more easily identify untreated medical waste has been disposed into the wrong waste container/receptacle
- Train staff to habitually glance into garbage bags/containers/receptacles in patient or common rooms. If questionable waste is observed, notify appropriate staff for removal using proper PPE
- It is better to err on the side of caution (if it questionable whether it is MW, then handle it as MW)

RECYCLE – REDUCE – REUSE

- Too much paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and even confidential documents have been found in the solid waste stream
- Aggressive recycling programs can reduce solid waste disposal fees significantly