



A One-Container Solution Can Increase Safety While Streamlining Waste Disposal

Time is a precious commodity in hospitals. Between the number of patients and the need to provide complex yet compassionate care, your staff does not have an extra moment to spend on inefficient waste disposal. By simplifying the management of two common waste streams, your staff can gain back critical time while increasing safety and quality of patient care.

SHARPS

- Approximately 385,000 sharps-related injuries occur annually, and it's estimated that half go unreported¹
- Nurses are the most frequently injured²
- Common locations for needlesticks include patient rooms and operating rooms³



16

BILLION INJECTIONS

are given around the world each year (and that's before you factor in COVID-19 vaccinations)⁴

DRUG WASTE



~95%

of hospital drug waste is non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste³

~95%

of the time, this type of waste is generated at the bedside



NURSING SHORTAGES AND STRESS⁴

- Insufficient staffing is raising nurses' stress levels, impacting job satisfaction, and driving many to leave the profession
- Higher nurse staffing levels are associated with fewer deaths, lower failure-to-rescue incidents, lower rates of infection, and shorter hospital stays



MORE THAN

75%

of RNs believe the nursing shortage is a major problem for the quality of their work life, the quality of patient care, and the amount of time nurses can spend with patients

By disposing sharps and non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste together in one container, you can improve efficiency AND decrease risk of improper disposal.

Using Stericycle's Comingle Solution, You Can:



SAVE TIME⁵

- Eliminate the need to leave patient room to dispose of non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste
- For a 300 bed hospital, disposing of pharmaceutical waste at the point of patient care can save—2,184 hours per year—comparable to 1 full time nurse



UTILIZE TIME SAVED

- Increase patient care and satisfaction with more time dedicated to evaluating and counseling patients on illness management
- Monitor and record patient treatment
- Expand time for nurses to decompress and practice stress relief activities



PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

- For every reusable container in service, up to 600 single-use containers are diverted from landfills⁶
- Eliminate practice of flushing pharmaceutical waste, which contaminates waterways



STRENGTHEN COMPLIANCE

- Stericycle provides staff training to help ensure compliant pharmaceutical waste disposal
- With ease-of-use, mitigate risk of pharmaceutical waste being disposed in red sharps containers
 - No meds in reds
- Containers have OSHA-compliant engineering and labeling, with FDA 510K clearance



MITIGATE RISK

- Proactive container monitoring and exchange by Stericycle technicians prevents overfilling, reducing risk of needlesticks, and burden on hospital staff
- Alleviate nursing stress, increasing staff morale and retention rates



Learn more about how Stericycle's Comingle Solution can improve efficiency and preserve safety for your team, go to www.stericycle.com/en-us/solutions/regulated-waste-disposal/comingle-solution

Sources:

1. CDC, Sharps Safety for Healthcare Settings, <https://www.cdc.gov/sharpsafety/>, accessed 4/20/2021
2. OSHA, Needlestick/Sharps Injuries, <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/sharps/sharps.html>, accessed 4/20/2021.
3. Based on a typical hospital formulary by NDC.
4. WHO, Health-care waste, <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/health-care-waste> accessed 4/20/2021.
5. Assumption based on 100 nurses per shift, 40% will waste meds, taking 90 seconds on average to dispose of medication in med room 3 times in a 12-hour shift; 2 shifts per day.
6. Stericycle, 2021.