Consumers Are Concerned About Potential Impacts of Medical Waste

Compared to healthcare providers (HCPs), consumers are even more concerned about the impacts and risks of ineffective regulated medical waste management and disposal. The vast majority of healthcare consumers surveyed in the 2023 Healthcare Workplace Safety Trend Report also recognize the importance of an effective medical waste management strategy. In total, 98% say it is at least somewhat critical. Forty-six percent say it is 'extremely critical,' and 22% say it is 'the most critical factor.'

Of those surveyed, 80% of HCPs, 76% of Administrators, and 90% of Healthcare Consumers report that proper medical waste management is at least very critical in maintaining a safe healthcare environment.

Of those surveyed, 90% of HCPs, 96% of Administrators, and 90% of Healthcare Consumers agree that medical waste management is important to delivering the best possible patient care.

Responding HCPs, administrators, and consumers are ‘extremely’ or ‘very concerned’ about medical waste management's:

- **Impact on the environment**
  - HCPs: 51%
  - Administrators: 84%
  - Healthcare Consumers: 82%

- **Risk to patient health and safety**
  - HCPs: 49%
  - Administrators: 85%
  - Healthcare Consumers: 81%

- **Risk to HCP health and safety**
  - HCPs: 43%
  - Administrators: 82%
  - Healthcare Consumers: 74%

- **Impact on community**
  - HCPs: 43%
  - Administrators: 78%
  - Healthcare Consumers: 74%

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