**Disposal of Hospital highly contagious infectious waste/trash**

Purpose: proper care and disposal of hospital highly contagious infectious waste/trash

1. Precaution: Proper care and disposal of hospital highly contagious infectious waste/trash

a. Highly contagious infections (such as Ebola) are capable of causing permanent disability or life threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposed to it.

b. Hazardous waste/trash (infections/isolation wastes) must be handled, packaged, controlled and properly disposed.

c. Personal protective equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training, and practice are needed to work in highly contagious infection environments (such as Ebola).

2. Highly contagious waste/trash can be generated at all stages of patient contact and care.

a. Vigilance , isolation, with all patient encounters to prevent spread of highly contagious infections.

b. All areas of patient contact/transfer must be cleaned and disinfected with an approved US Environmental protection Agency (EPA) registered hospital disinfectant.

c. All hospitals should limit numbers of trained personnel in entering highly contagious patient areas.

d. Hospital housekeeping personnel need training and PPE to work in highly contagious infected environment (such as Ebola).

e. All equipment and cleaning supplies should be cleaned/disinfected or disposed of after entering highly contagious infected areas.

3. Highly contagious hazardous waste/trash disposal.

a. Place waste into a red biohazard bag, tie off bag, disinfect the exterior of the bag and place into a second red bag. Disinfect the exterior of the second red bag.

b. Place red bags onto a rigid container with a tight fitting lid. The container must be marked with Identification number and proper shipping name: For Ebola “UN 2814, Infectious substances, affecting humans, all labels shall have black and white lettering. The container must have directional arrow to indicate the correct “Upright” orientation.

c. Transport rigid container to a dedicated locked storage area “Do Not Store this waste in an intermediate storage area”

d. Disinfect the rigid container and transport cart

e. Be aware a suspected or known case may generate as much as 8 (eight) 55-gallon drums per day.

f. Always disinfect with an approved US environmental protection agency (EPA) – registered hospital disinfectant.

g. Contact your hazardous waste disposal company to remove hazardous waste containers.

Note: “Stericycle” (hazardous waste disposal company used by several hospitals in northwest Minnesota) has DOT special permit to handle highly contagious hazardous wastes. Customer service # 866-338-5120. Stericycle can also be contacted to help with transport and disposal of non-standard waste materials such as mattresses and flooring.