



Beware Hazards in Healthcare:

New Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals

Recently proposed EPA regulation provides a streamlined approach for healthcare facilities to better manage their hazardous pharmaceutical waste. To prepare for these changes, healthcare facilities, including manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies and retailers of pharmaceutical products in the USA will need to make operational adjustments around notification, training, record keeping and reporting.



\$32,500 The amount institutions could be **fined per day** for noncompliance. (1)



90/180 Days The **maximum storage time** for hazardous waste, determined by the facility's waste generator status. (1)



5% Of all pharmaceutical agents can be classified as **hazardous**. (2)



Only 5 out of 100 Pharmacies surveyed had consistent recommendations for their patients on **drug disposal**. (3)

Who's on first?

Organizational accountabilities to implement proposed hazardous waste regulations affecting retailers



1 C-Suite (CEO/COO) - Champion and Manage Risk

- Embrace and champion a corporate hazardous waste management policy.
- Support systematic tracking, reporting and conformance to waste management requirements and best practices.
- Address companywide risks and exposure from improper waste management practices.



2 EHS/Waste Manager - Plan and Verify

- Oversee companywide management of reverse distribution.
- Verify documentation, compliance, and safety performance across waste/recycling facilities.



3 Supply Chain Manager - Establish and Enforce

- Incorporate reverse distribution as part of the pharmaceutical product life cycle.
- Enforce labeling and hazard information requirements with suppliers.
- Establish a records practice to track manufacturer's credits.



4 Store Manager - Enforce and Monitor

- Establish a specific area for accumulating hazardous wastes.
- Communicate preparedness, prevention, and emergency procedures with the staff and local emergency planning committee.
- Train workforce to classify waste, segregate waste streams, and maintain required storage practices.
- Comply with all recordkeeping requirements.



5 Salesperson - Be the Eyes and Ears

- Understand and follow emergency response, incident management, and hazardous waste disposal procedures.
- Maintain vigilance of waste storage areas.



6 Shipping/Receiving & Warehouse Manager - Organize, Prepare, Implement

- Retain and organize records.
- Prepare contingency plans and staff training in managing hazardous waste.
- Managing storage containers and containment storage areas.



Learn more about how to eliminate environmental, health, and safety risks that impact your people, your brand, and your customers so you can focus on growing your business: <http://us.anteagroup.com>

References:
 1. ASHP Advantage and Verdata. Managing Pharmaceutical Waste, A discussion guide for health-system pharmacists.
 2. Sheehan E, Wooliever P. Pharmaceutical waste: fish don't need anti-depressants. Pharmacology Associates, LLC
 3. Kuspis DA, Krenzelok EP. What happens to expired medications? A survey of community medication disposal. Vet Hum Toxicol.