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<b>SECTION: Infection Control</b>	
<b>POLICY AND PROCEDURE: Bloodborne Pathogens and Waste Management</b>	Approved date: _____ Approved by: _____ Effective date: _____ Revised date: _____ Revised date: _____

**POLICY:**

The site will follow the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and California Waste Management Act according to 8 CCR §5193 (Cal OSHA Health Care Worker Needlestick Prevention Act, 1999); H&S Code, §117600-118360 (CA Medical Waste Management Act, 1997); 29 CFR §1910.1030.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. BLOOD AND OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS (OPIM)
  - A. OPIM are all human body fluids, any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead), and HIV or HBV-containing blood, cells, tissue, organs, cultures, medium or solutions. Containers for blood and OPIM are closable, leak proof, and labeled and/or color-coded. Double bagging is required only if leakage is possible.
  
- II. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
  - A. PPE is specialized clothing and/or equipment for protection against bloodborne pathogen hazards, and does not include general work clothes (e.g., uniforms, cloth lab coats) that permit liquid to soak through.
  - B. PPE is available for staff use on site, and includes:
    - 1. water repelling gloves
    - 2. clothing barrier (e.g., gown, sheets)
    - 3. face/eye protection (e.g., goggles, face shield)
    - 4. respiratory infection protection (e.g., mask)
  - C. Other necessary PPE are available specific to the practice and types of procedures performed on site. General work clothes are appropriate only if blood/OPIM does not penetrate through employee's work clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under NORMAL conditions of use.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE: Bloodborne Pathogens and Waste Management****III. LABELS**

- A. A warning label is affixed to red bagged regulated wastes, sharps containers, refrigerators/freezers containing blood or OPIM, containers used to store or transport blood or OPIM, and contaminated laundry or equipment for storage or transporting. The international "BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE" label, (fluorescent orange or red-orange with contrasting lettering/symbols) is an integral part of the container or affixed to container. Sharps containers are labeled with the words "Sharps Waste" or with the international biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD". Individual containers of blood or OPIM are exempted from warning labels if placed inside a labeled secondary container for storage, transport, or disposal. Alternative marking or color coding may be used to label contaminated laundry or specimen containers if the alternative marking permits employees on site to recognize that container requires compliance with Universal Precautions. If the contaminated laundry or specimen leaves the site, an international "Biohazardous Waste" warning label and/or red color-coding is used.

**IV. NEEDLESTICK SAFETY**

- A. Contaminated sharps are discarded immediately. Sharps containers are located close to the immediate area where sharps are used, and are inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Sharps are not bent, removed from a syringe, or recapped. Needleless systems, sharps with engineered sharps injury protection (ESIP), and non-needle sharps are used unless exemptions have been approved by Cal/OSHA (8CCR, Section 5193). Security of portable containers in patient care areas is maintained at all times. Any device capable of cutting or piercing (e.g. syringes, hypodermic needles, needleless devices, blades, broken glass, slides, vials) are placed in a closable, puncture-resistant, labeled, leak-proof container. If these requirements are met, containers made of various materials (e.g., cardboard, plastic) are acceptable. Containers are not overfilled past manufacturer's designated fill line, or more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Supply of containers on hand is adequate to ensure routine change-out when filled.

**V. SHARPS INJURY DOCUMENTATION**

- A. Site has a method in place to document sharps injuries. Date, time, description of exposure incident, sharp type/brand, follow-up care is documented within 14 days of injury incident (see attached Sharps Injury Report form).

**VI. CONTAMINATED LAUNDRY**

- A. Site has a laundry service contract or a washer and dryer on site to launder contaminated laundry (soiled with blood/OPIM or containing contaminated sharps). Manufacturer's guidelines are followed to decontaminate and launder reusable protective clothing. Laundry requirements are "not applicable" if only disposable PPE is used on site.

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## VII. REGULATED WASTE STORAGE

- A. Regulated waste is contained separately from other wastes (e.g., contaminated wastes) at the point of origin in the producing facility, placed in red biohazardous bags with Biohazard label, and stored in a closed container that is not accessible to unauthorized persons. If stored outside of the office, a lock secures the entry door, gate or receptacle lid, and posted warning sign(s) in English and Spanish are visible for a distance of 25-feet. The sign wording states “**CAUTION—BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA—UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT**” or “**CUIDADO—ZONA DE RESIDUOS—BIOLOGICOS PELIGROSOS—PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS.**” Signs prior to the passage of the Medical Waste Act, Infectious Waste, are permitted for the “life” of the sign.
- B. Regulated wastes include: 1) **Biohazardous wastes**, e.g., laboratory wastes, human specimens/tissue, blood/contaminated materials “known” to be infected with highly communicable diseases for humans and/or that require isolation, and 2) **Medical wastes**, e.g., liquid/semi-liquid blood or OPIM, items caked with dry blood or OPIM and capable of releasing materials during handling, and contaminated sharps (Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.1, CA Medical Waste Management Act).

## VIII. MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

- A. Medical wastes are hauled to a permitted offsite medical waste treatment facility, to a transfer station, or to another registered generator for consolidation. Hauling is by a registered hazardous waste transporter or by a person with an approved limited-quantity hauling exemption granted by the CA DHCS Waste Management Division. The limited-quantity hauling exemption is valid for a period of one year and is renewed annually. When hauling medical wastes, the transporter carries the exemption form in the transporting vehicle. A medical waste tracking document is maintained that includes name of person transporting, number of waste containers, type of medical wastes, and date of transportation. Tracking document is kept a minimum of 3 years for large waste generators and 2 years for small generators.

**Note:** Contaminated wastes include materials soiled with blood during the course of their use but are not within the scope of regulated wastes. Contaminated waste items need not be disposed as regulated waste in labeled red bags, but can be discarded as solid waste in regular trash receptacle.