

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Title: Biohazard Policy According to International Human Rights Standards
For: RMDC

Purpose

To establish guidelines for the safe handling, storage, disposal, and management of biohazardous materials in compliance with international human rights standards, ensuring the health and safety of individuals and the environment.

Scope

This SOP applies to all students, faculty, staff, and associated personnel involved in activities that generate, handle, or dispose of biohazardous materials within the medical college, its laboratories, and affiliated healthcare facilities.

References

1. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** Articles 3, 25
 2. **World Health Organization (WHO):** Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Healthcare Activities
 3. **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):** Standards for Biohazardous Materials
 4. **Basel Convention:** International treaty on hazardous waste disposal
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Definitions

- **Biohazardous Materials:** Any biological material (e.g., blood, body fluids, tissues, microorganisms) that poses a risk to human health or the environment.
 - **Waste Segregation:** Sorting of waste based on its category, risk level, and disposal method.
 - **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):** Clothing and equipment used to protect individuals from exposure to biohazards.
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Policy Statement

The medical college is committed to safeguarding the dignity, health, and rights of all individuals by managing biohazardous materials responsibly and ethically, minimizing harm to humans and the environment, and complying with international and national standards.

Responsibilities

1. **Dean of the Medical College**
 - Ensures policy implementation and periodic review.
 2. **Biohazard Safety Officer (BSO)**
 - Oversees training, compliance, and incident reporting.
 3. **Department Heads**
 - Monitor adherence to biohazard protocols within their departments.
 4. **Faculty, Staff, and Students**
 - Comply with biohazard handling and disposal guidelines.
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Procedures

1. Training and Awareness

- All personnel handling biohazardous materials must complete training in:
 - Safe handling and disposal practices.
 - Use of PPE.
 - Emergency response for biohazard incidents.
- Human rights and ethical considerations in waste management.

2. Waste Segregation and Storage

- Use color-coded bins for waste segregation:
 - **Yellow:** Infectious waste.
 - **Red:** Sharps.
 - **Black:** General non-hazardous waste.
- Store biohazardous materials in sealed, labeled containers to prevent leaks or contamination.

3. Handling and Transportation

- Personnel must wear appropriate PPE during handling and transportation.
- Transport waste using designated, sealed containers to prevent exposure.

4. Disposal

- Adhere to national and local regulations for incineration, autoclaving, or chemical treatment.
- Ensure disposal sites are compliant with WHO and Basel Convention standards.

5. Incident Reporting

- Report any exposure or spillage immediately to the Biohazard Safety Officer.
- Investigate and document incidents to prevent recurrence.

6. Monitoring and Compliance

- Conduct periodic audits to ensure adherence to the policy.
 - Review processes based on audit findings and updates in international standards.
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Ethical Considerations

- **Right to Health:** Protect the health of all personnel and communities from biohazard risks.
 - **Environmental Protection:** Ensure biohazard management minimizes environmental harm.
 - **Non-Discrimination:** Provide equal access to safety measures and training for all personnel.
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Documentation and Record-Keeping

- Maintain records of:
 - Training sessions.
 - Waste disposal logs.
 - Incident reports.
 - Compliance audits.
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Review and Updates

- This policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in international or national guidelines.
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