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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GLOBAL HEALTHCARE WASTE PROJECT

# MODULE 7: Walkthrough of a Healthcare Facility

All participants



# Waste Containers and Segregation

- Observe waste segregation practices.
- Are the bins properly color-coded or marked?
- Look into open bins and note the contents.
- Evaluate the level of segregation.
- Are bins overflowing or are they no more than 3/4<sup>th</sup> full?  
Are there enough bins in the ward/department?  
Are the bins the right size?
- Are the bins or combination of bins in the right locations?  
Are there bins in the nurse's trolley?
- What is the general condition of the bins?
- Note the quantity and types of waste generated.
- List hazardous procedures and how to prevent them.
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Sharps Management

- Note the number and types of injections given. Are some injections unnecessary?
- What types of syringes are used?
- Evaluate the types of sharps containers.
- Are the containers in the proper locations?
- Look into sharps containers and evaluate the level of segregation.
- Is recapping practiced?
- What is the procedure when a needle-stick injury occurs?
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Waste Collection and Transportation

- Observe the mode of collection and internal transportation.
- Evaluate the route of transportation.
- Evaluate the frequency and times of collection.
- What type of collection carts or trolleys are used? Are there enough? What is the condition of the carts or trolleys?
- Are the waste handlers using proper PPE?
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Storage

Evaluate:

- Waste storage area
- Location, surroundings, access
- Overall cleanliness
- Marking, signs
- Cleaning and disinfection area
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Treatment and Disposal

Evaluate:

- Type of treatment method
- Location, surroundings, access, cleanliness
- Regulatory permits and approvals
- Training and use of PPE by the operators
- Monitoring and record-keeping
- Preventive maintenance schedule
- Description of the treatment area
- Description of the final disposal site
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Housekeeping and Engineering

Evaluate:

- Availability and conditions of bins, bags, cleaning supplies, other consumables
- Use of PPE
- Maintenance of needle cutters
- Maintenance of mercury sphygmomanometers
- Constraints on maintaining segregation
- Mercury spill management procedures
- Liquid spill management procedures
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Hospital HCWM policies

- Policies on waste management
- Role of different facility staff in waste management
- HCWM organization
- Accreditation / certifications
- Orientation programs and training protocols
- Think of suggestions for improvement



# Mercury Management

- What are the policies regarding mercury?
- Evaluate the procedures for a mercury spill.
- Are mercury spill kits available?
- How are mercury from spills, amalgam, and mercury-contaminated waste stored in the facility?
- Evaluate the interim storage facility used for mercury waste.
- What happens to the mercury?
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Liquid Waste Management

- ❑ Identify different sources of liquid waste in the facility.
- ❑ How are blood and body fluids disposed of?
- ❑ What types of chemicals and disinfectants are used in the facility? What concentrations are used? How are they disposed of?
- ❑ Does the facility treat its wastewater?
- ❑ Where does the wastewater go outside the facility?
- ❑ Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Monitoring and Reporting

## Evaluate:

- Existing reporting formats on waste management
- Reporting system on waste management and infection control
- Role and responsibility of nodal officers in monitoring and reporting
- Monitoring system
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Occupational Safety

- Observe the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by doctors, nurses, paramedics, auxiliary staff, waste handlers.
- Note the availability and condition of PPE.
- Are there accident reporting procedures?
- Ask about vaccinations.
- Are there patient safety issues?
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Infection Control

Ask the infection control officer about:

- Current infection control practices
- Existing infection control policies and protocols
- Hand hygiene
- Disinfection and sterilization practices
- Information on the infection control committee
- Surveillance measures
- Prevalent infections
- Rate of infections before and after HCWM was implemented in the facility
- Think of suggestions for improvement.

# Training and Awareness-Raising

- ❑ How many training sessions have been held on HCWM?
- ❑ Are records of training kept?
- ❑ How frequent are the trainings?
- ❑ How have the trainings been evaluated by the participants?
- ❑ Evaluate awareness-raising posters and other awareness-raising materials on HCWM.
- ❑ Think of suggestions for improving training and awareness-raising.