

Changes\* made to 15A NCAC Section 1200  
 Medical Waste Management  
 Effective November 1, 2019

\*Please note that this is NOT an exhaustive list of all changes made – rather a summary of key points.  
 You are advised to review and compare the previous version of the rules with the newly approved version.

2019 Designation	Previous Name	2019 Name	Significant Changes (part)
.1201	Definitions	Definitions	<p>(1) Added “Blood and body fluids does not include ...feces or urine if not removed during surgeries and autopsies”</p> <p>(5) Microbiological Waste - changed “infectious” to “etiologic”</p> <p>(9) Pathological Wastes - added “secretions and excretions” and removed “transmissible to humans”</p> <p>(13) Sharps – changed “syringes with attached needle” to syringes; removed capillary tubes, slides and cover slips (but did not remove these from regulations – see .1202(b))</p> <p>Added definitions for non-hazardous pharmaceutical and trace chemotherapy wastes.</p>
.1202	General Requirements for Medical Waste	General Requirements for Medical Waste	<p>Combined medical waste (previously .1202) and regulated medical waste (previously .1203)</p> <p>Added relevant sections for regulated medical waste transport (.1205), storage (.1206) and operational requirements for regulated medical waste facilities (.1207).</p> <p><b>Changed:</b></p> <p>(c) Blood and body fluids in individual containers of 20 ml or less which are not stored in a secured area restricted to authorized personnel prior to off-site transportation shall be packaged in accordance with the regulated medical waste packaging requirements as described in Rule .1204(a)(1) of this Section or in a container suitable for sharps. Containers or blood and body fluids which are packaged in accordance</p>

			<p>with Rule .1204(a)(1) of this Section or in a container suitable for sharps as required by this Rule shall not be compacted prior to off-site transportation.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TO</b></p> <p>(c) “Blood and body fluids in individual containers in volumes of 20 ml or less shall be stored in an area accessible only to the responsible party or their designated representative and shall not be compacted prior to off-site transportation.</p> <p>(e) Added “only the responsible party or their designated representative shall have access to regulated medical waste”</p> <p>(h)(i) Amended section on medical waste treatment and disposal methods by waste type: Medical waste treatment and disposal methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Blood and body fluids in individual containers in volumes greater than 20 ml shall be disposed of by sanitary sewer if the local sewage treatment authority has been notified; or treated by incineration or steam sterilization.</li><li>(2) Microbiological waste shall be treated by incineration, steam sterilization, ozonation, microwave, or chemical treatment.</li><li>(3) Non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste shall be treated by incineration or disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill. The requirements of this Subparagraph shall not prevent non-hazardous pharmaceuticals from being returned to the vendor.</li><li>(4) Pathological waste shall be treated by incineration or ozonation.</li><li>(5) Trace chemotherapy waste shall be treated by incineration or ozonation.</li><li>(6) Noninfectious medical waste and blood and body fluids in individual containers in volumes of 20 ml or less may be disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill or treated by the treatment methods as described in this Paragraph. Blood and body fluids in individual containers in volumes of 20 ml or less may also be disposed of in a sanitary sewer. The</li></ol>
--	--	--	---

			requirements of this Subparagraph shall not prevent noninfectious medical waste such as textiles, plastic, glass, or metal from being recycled.
.1203	General Requirements for Regulated Medical Waste	Requirements for Regulated Medical Waste Generators, Transporters, and Transfer and Storage Options	<p>Combined .1203 and .1204 and added relevant sections for regulated medical waste transport (.1205), storage (.1206) and operational requirements for regulated medical waste facilities (.1207).</p> <p>(a)(9)(A) Changed “infectious waste” to “infectious substance “medical waste” to “biohazard”</p>
.1204	Requirements for Generators of Regulated Medical Waste	Requirements for the Treatment of Regulated Medical Waste	<p>Added section</p> <p>(a) General Requirements for Treated Regulated Medical Waste:</p> <p>(1) Treated regulated medical waste shall be covered to prevent exposure to the environment and inclement weather.</p> <p>(2) Treated regulated medical waste may be placed uncovered in or under a weather resistant structure while dewatering or while in the process of being covered.</p> <p>(3) Treated regulated medical waste shall be stored no longer than 14 calendar days after treatment unless the facility's operations plan states that the storage unit is a necessary part of the operation of the treatment process and is enclosed, sealed, and watertight.</p> <p>(4) Treated regulated medical waste storage and transport containers, compactors, trailers, and cargo bays shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>(5) Treated regulated medical waste shall not be transported off site uncovered.</p> <p>(6) The exterior of treated regulated medical waste storage and transport containers, compactors, trailers, and cargo bays shall be free of solid waste and solid waste residue.</p> <p>(7) Treated regulated medical waste shall not become putrescent. Putrescent treated regulated medical waste shall be disposed of within three calendar days.</p>

			<p>(8) Treated regulated medical waste shall not become a nuisance.</p> <p>(9) Treated regulated medical waste shall be noninfectious.</p> <p>Added relevant sections covering the operational requirements for regulated medical waste facilities (.1207)</p>
--	--	--	--

.1205-.1207

Information integrated into previous sections and these sections removed