THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

DISPOSAL OF RESTRICTED AND HIGH-RISK POISONS FACT SHEET

Scope

This fact sheet provides guidance on the disposal of restricted and high-risk poisons (restricted S4, restricted S7, S8 and S9) in compliance with the *Medicine and Poisons Act 2019.*

Introduction

Prior to purchase of a restricted or high-risk poison an appropriate disposal procedure must be documented in consultation with a local Drugs Officer and HSW Manager in accordance with the UQ PPL Substance Management Plan (SMP) for Medicines and Poisons Procedure.

Where possible, regulated waste should be disposed at the point-of-use by rendering the material unusable and unidentifiable by dispersal in absorbent material and destruction via incineration (see procedure below), reducing the risk of diversion. Disposal methods must be risk assessed in UQSafe.

If there are chemical or physical hazards which prevent disposal via the clinical waste stream (e.g. cyanides), the material must be destroyed by chemical treatment by a suitably experienced person.

If the substance cannot be destroyed and disposed of at the point-of-use, special arrangements can be made with the UQ Science Store whereby the material will be collected by an approved waste management company for destruction.

The disposal of restricted and high-risk poisons must be recorded in a usage log or high-risk poisons register, respectively, by the Drugs Officer and countersigned by an appropriate witness (e.g., WHSC, HSW Manager, Facilities Manager or a Drugs Officer from a different area).

Procedure

Destruction and disposal by absorption:

1. Crush solids to a powder, empty liquids from ampoules or vials, etc.
2. Disperse the substance in an absorbent in a manner that prevents subsequent retrieval.
   - Suitable dispersion media include kitty litter, sawdust, concrete or other absorbent material.
   - All liquid must be absorbed, and powders completely dispersed.
   - Empty ampoules and smaller vials containing residues can be added to the absorbent.
   - Larger containers which contain residues of regulated poisons must be filled with absorbent.
3. Add a liquid detergent.
4. The absorbed waste is placed in a sealable, non-breakable container which is disposed of in clinical waste. Glass containers must be placed in a sharps container before disposal.
5. Clinical waste bins must be locked and stored in a secure location (e.g., swipe card access only / locked location) until collection by an approved waste contractor.

Further information

1. UQ PPL Substance Management Plan for Medicines and Poisons Procedure
2. Medicines and Poisons (HSW Division webpage)
3. Hazardous chemicals and controlled substances (HSW Division webpage)
4. UQ Science Store (uqsciencestore@uq.edu.au)