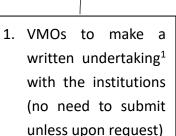
Do the institutions agree to dispose of the clinical waste in their names for the VMOs?



Yes

- VMOs to obtain certified true copy of the trip ticket from the institutions after waste disposal
- 3. Keep the trip ticket for 12 months

1. VMOs to obtain an outreach premises code²

OR

No

By engaging licensed collector's service

- 2. Book licensed collector's service³ in advance
- 3. Temporarily store the packaged and labelled waste in the vaccination venue if needed
- Collector to collect the waste at the premises (venue staff can sign and return the trip ticket to VMOs)
- 5. Keep the trip ticket for 12 months

By Self-delivery

- 2. Obtain blank trip ticket⁴ in advance
- 3. Temporarily store the packaged and labelled waste in the vaccination venue if needed
- 4. Fill in the trip ticket Part A&B (refer to Fig.3)
- Self-deliver the waste within 24 hours once selfdelivery begins (detailed requirement at *Appendix IV of Doctors' Guide*)⁵
- 6. Keep the trip ticket for 12 months

VMOs who encounter difficulties in clinical waste disposal may seek assistance from the Department of Health (DH) by filling in the Request Form for Clinical Waste Collection available at: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/doc/request_form_for_clinical_waste_collection.docx.

¹ Such agreement, contact details and signatures of the VMO and the institution should be written in the undertaking

² Sample at Fig.2. Application form: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/Premises%20Code%20Request%20Form%20(Eng).pdf

³ Collectors' list: http://epic.epd.gov.hk/ca/uid/waste-clinical/p/1

⁴ Application form: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/Request%20Form%20for%20Clinical%20Waste%20Trip%20Tickets en.pdf

⁵ The Doctors' Guide: https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/23543.html

Information Sheet and FAQ about Clinical Waste Management under Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP)

Background

VMOs can adopt various arrangements for clinical waste disposal they deem convenient and appropriate as long as the clinical waste is disposed of properly in accordance to the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap.354O).

Under Section 2 and in association with Schedule 8 of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354), clinical waste consists of 6 groups of waste generated from various healthcare, laboratory and research practices. All clinical waste generated should be properly handled and disposed of in accordance to the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 3540, section 3).

For details, please refer to the EPD's Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical Waste (Small Clinical Waste Producers) (https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/doc06_en.pdf).

Points to note for handling and disposal of clinical waste

- Clinical waste generated (mainly used needles and syringes) should be disposed of directly into sharps box(es) with cover, which should be placed on a flat, firm surface and at an optimal position near to the staff providing vaccination.
- VMOs need to pre-arrange and decide method of clinical waste collection and disposal before the vaccination activity, and may liaise with the institutions for assistance.

There are three ways in clinical waste disposal (Figure 1), namely

- (1) Pre-arrange licensed clinical waste collector to collect clinical waste on the same day after the vaccination activity¹; or
- (2) Self-deliver the clinical waste to Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) by healthcare professional on the same day after activity; or
- (3) Temporarily store the sharps box(es) in locked and labelled cabinet at the venue until self-delivery or collection by licensed clinical waste collector.

VMOs may seek assistance from DH if encounter difficulties in clinical waste disposal by filling in the Request Form for Clinical Waste Collection available at: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/doc/request form for clinical waste collection.docx.

VMOs should obtain a Clinical Waste Producer Premises Codes from the EPD

¹ The list of licensed clinical waste collectors is available at http://epic.epd.gov.hk/ca/uid/waste clinical/p/1

beforehand (unless the institutions agree to assist VMOs in clinical waste disposal). Please specify "Outreach Service" on the Premises Code Request Form² (Figure 2). The premises code is needed for completing the clinical waste trip ticket (Figure 3).

 Except to the CWTC direct, the clinical waste should NOT be delivered to any other places by healthcare workers (including to their own clinics).

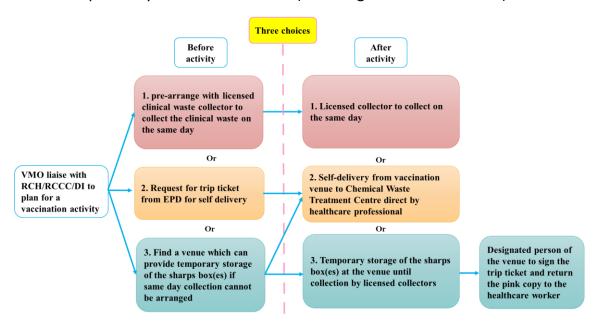
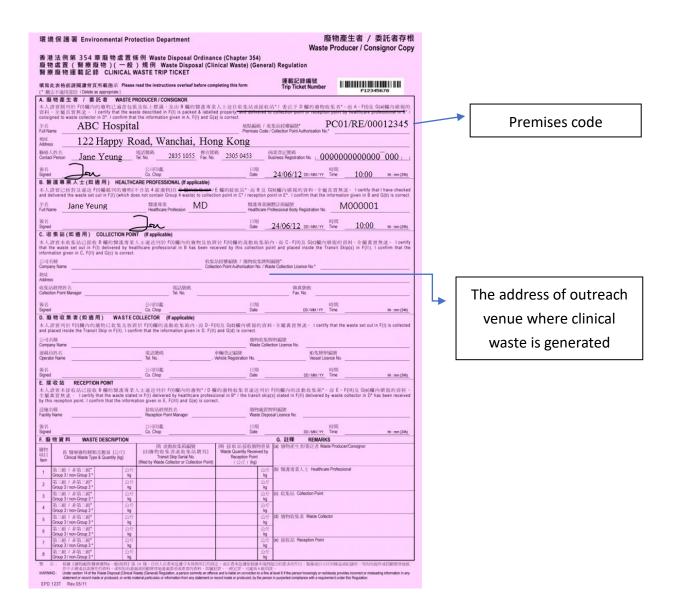


Figure 1: Three different ways in clinical waste disposal

Figure 2: Premises Code Request Form

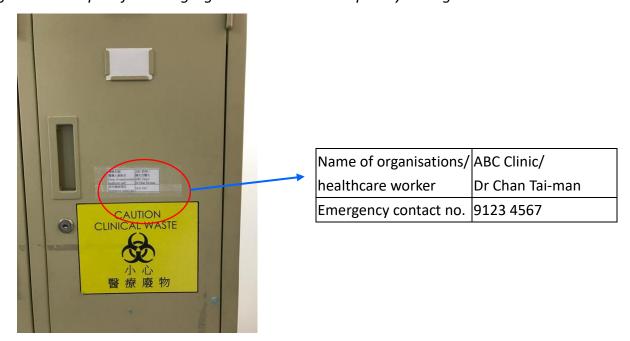


² Premises Code Request Form is available at https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/Premises%20Code%20Request%20Form%20(Eng).pdf



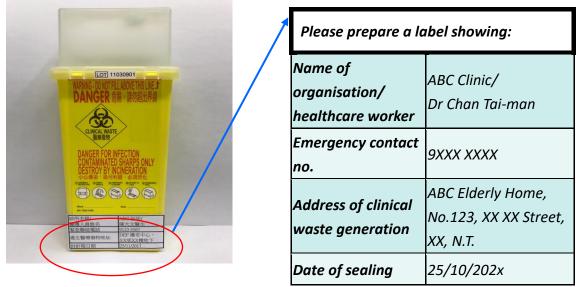
• In case the collection of clinical waste cannot be arranged on the vaccination day, liaise with institutions before the vaccination day to arrange temporary storage of used sharps box(es) in locked and labelled cabinet at the venue (Figure 4) until collection by licensed collector as soon as possible or the healthcare professionals to self-deliver.

Figure 4: Example of warning sign and label on a temporary storage cabinet



- Sharps box(es) for the vaccination activity would be prepared by insitutions (Picture 1). The specifications of a typical sharps box are given in Annex B of Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical Waste (Small Clinical Waste Producers) (the CoP) published by the EPD.
- Do not overfill sharps box. Dispose sharps box when the disposable sharps reach the warning line (70-80%) for maximum volume. Seal up sharps box afterwards for proper disposal.

Picture 1: Example of labelled clinical waste container (sharps box)



For more details, please refer to Chapter 2.4.6 of the Doctors' Guide³.

³ The Doctor's Guide is available at https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/23543.html

Frequently Asked Questions

1. If institutions agree to assist VMOs in clinical waste disposal, do VMOs still need to obtain a Clinical Waste Producer Premises Code from EPD?

VMOs may liaise with institutions for assistance of clinical waste disposal. If institutions agree to dispose of the clinical waste in their names for VMOs, there is **no need** for VMOs to obtain an outreach Clinical Waste Producer Premises Code from EPD.

VMOs should make a written undertaking with the institutions stating that the institutions are willing to assist for clinical waste disposal. There should be contact details and signatures from both sides written on the undertaking.

When the licensed collector collects clinical waste stored on-site, the designated person of the venue should sign the trip ticket and forward the pink copy of the trip ticket certified by the institutions to the healthcare worker for record.

Clinical waste disposal records must be in accordance to EPD regulations and VMOs must keep the clinical waste disposal records (the pink copy of the Clinical Waste Trip Ticket) for 12 months and to produce such copies to EPD for inspection upon request.

2. Do VMOs need to keep the clinical waste disposal records?

Clinical waste disposal records must be in accordance to EPD regulations and VMOs must keep the clinical waste disposal records (the pink copy of the Clinical Waste Trip Ticket) for 12 months and to produce such copies to EPD for inspection upon request. EPD may also conduct surprise inspection to check for any non-compliance in clinical waste management in the vaccination activities.

3. How much does it cost in clinical waste disposal?

If VMO opts for **self-delivery**, a charge at **\$2.715 per kg** will be levied on the clinical waste as received and treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC). The amount to be paid depends upon the weight of clinical waste received and only cash is accepted.

As for collection of clinical waste by licensed clinical waste collectors, the cost per trip may vary between different clinical waste collectors and depends on factors such as delivery route, scheduling and manpower. **The cost will generally be lower for earlier booking.** VMO may wish to quote price from different collectors as early as possible when the date, time and venue of the vaccination activity is confirmed.

4. Can VMOs transport the clinical waste back to their clinic for disposal?

Except to the CWTC direct, delivery of clinical waste to any other places by healthcare workers (including to their own clinics) is not permitted. VMO may take reference from the three different ways of clinical waste disposal and liaise with the institutions for assistance.

5. If VMOs opt for self-delivery of clinical waste to CWTC, can they transport other people in the same vehicle?

Direct transportation of clinical waste from the vaccination site to CWTC by private car is required for self-delivery. VMOs could choose to self-deliver their clinical waste to the CWTC on the same day after the event. Alternatively, they may ask their employee who is healthcare professional to deliver the waste on their behalf. Other people may be transported during the delivery. At least one healthcare professional, such as a registered medical practitioner or registered/enrolled nurse, is responsible for delivering the clinical waste to CWTC.

6. For self-delivery of clinical waste to CWTC, can VMOs use transportation other than private car?

Only private car within the meaning of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) can be used for the self-delivery of clinical waste to CWTC. Private car means a motor vehicle constructed or adapted for use solely for the carriage of a driver and not more than 7 passengers and their personal effects but does not include an invalid carriage, motor cycle, motor tricycle or taxi.

7. Can VMOs use the same sharps box to collect clinical waste from more than one institution?

VMO can only use separate sharps boxes for separate premises. VMO cannot share the sharps box amongst different institutions or transport the sharps box from its original premises of clinical waste production to other premises. VMO may liaise with institutions to use the existing sharps box of the institutions for disposal of needles and syringes.

8. Can the sharps box be used for multiple visits at the same institution?

If VMO will arrange multiple visits to the same institution, a sharps box can be temporarily stored at the venue under safe custody until it fills up to 70%-80% of its maximum volume before being sealed and disposed.

9. Can VMOs self-deliver the clinical waste to CWTC after the vaccination day?
Yes, the waste can be stored temporarily inside the vaccination venue until

self-delivery is feasible. Once self-delivery begins, the waste must arrive CWTC within 24 hours.

For further enquiries, please contact

Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP) telephone no.: 2125 2125

Environmental Protection Department Clinical Waste Hotline: 2835 1055