

Waste Management at Community Level

SCM sub-group of the iCCM Taskforce
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Introduction

- Medical waste can be hazardous
- People can be injured or infected
- Proper handling & disposal of healthcare waste is part of health care delivery system
- Waste management practices need to be appropriate for the level of care

Context of CHWs

- Work from their own homes
- Live in the community
- Usually have a box/ cupboard to store commodities
- Linkages to the health facility

CHW Products & Hazardous Waste

Types of products managed by CHWs

- RDTs for malaria
- Antimalarials
- Amoxicillin DT
- ORS
- Zinc
- Family planning commodities



Types of CHW Waste

- Infectious hazardous sharps
 - needles
 - syringes
 - lancets
 - slides
- Infectious hazardous
 - gloves
 - swabs
 - RDTs
- Non-infectious hazardous
 - Expired medicines
- General Waste
 - Tablet containers, blister packs, sachets...



Risks of incorrect waste management

- Health care waste can be infectious
- Injury from used sharps can transmit infectious diseases e.g. HIV, hepatitis etc.
- Scavengers can collect and recycle used sharps
- Children often are more at risk
- Expired medicines can be public health risk
- Burning or dumping causes pollution



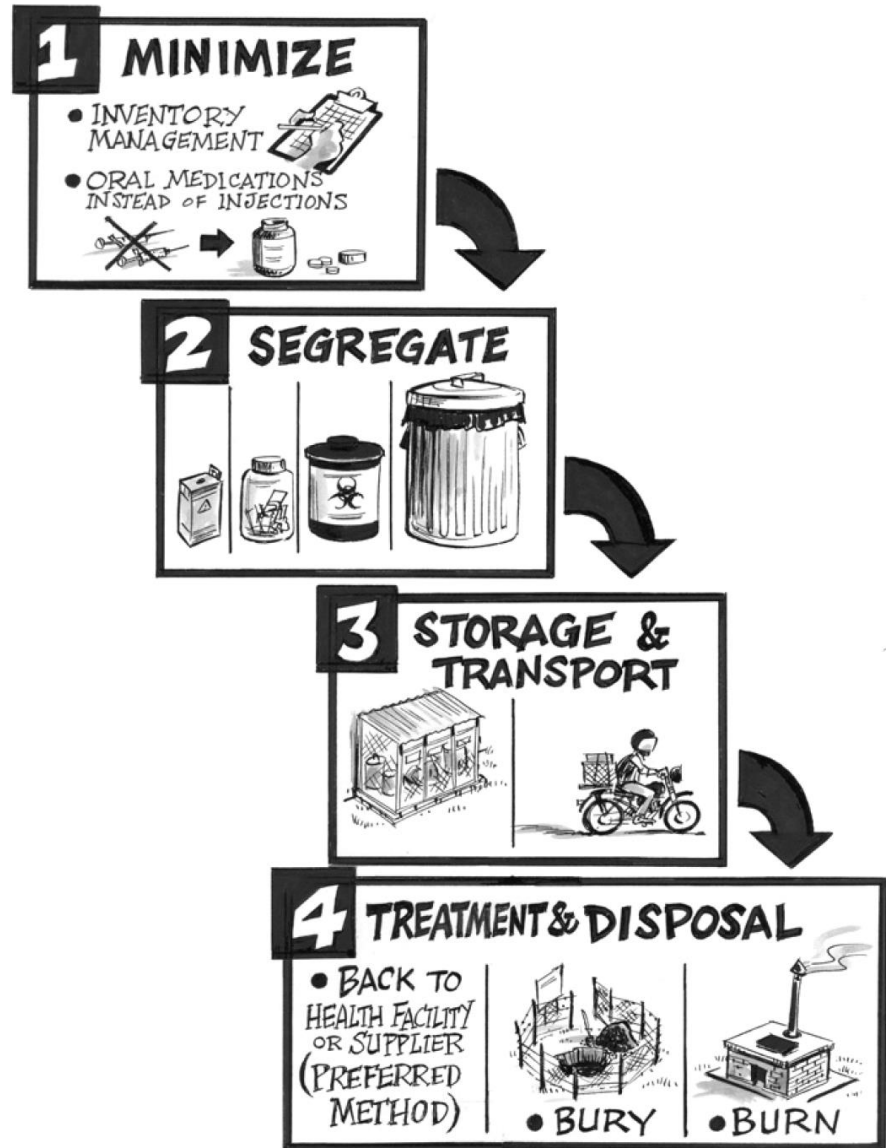
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Role of the CHW

- Minimize waste
- Separate hazardous / infectious waste
- Storage of hazardous / infectious waste
- Transport for disposal to health facility



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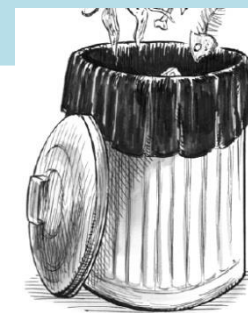
Minimize

- Don't over order or over supply
- Rotate stock well to avoid expiry
- Exchange products that may expire before they reach their expiry date



Segregate

Sharps Infectious Hazardous Waste	Non-sharps Infectious Hazardous Waste	Non-infectious Hazardous Waste	Non-Hazardous General Waste
syringes, needles, lancets	gloves, swabs, used RDT	expired or damaged medicines	boxes, paper, medicine containers
Safety box with a secure lid	Safety container of different color - often yellow or red	Brown bag or bin	Trash can



Preferably use containers of different color

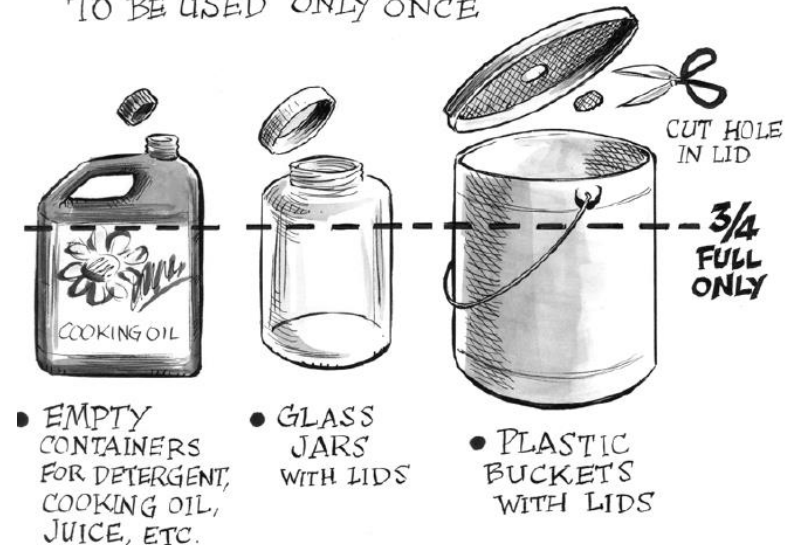
Segregate

Sharps waste e.g. syringes, needles, lancets etc.

- Always use a pair of gloves (not just one)
- Place sharps in safety box with a secure lid
- Carefully assemble safety boxes
- Use alternative container if no safety boxes e.g. plastic bottle
- Never overfill safety boxes- fill to 3/4
- Do not empty or reuse safety boxes

ALTERNATIVES TO A SAFETY BOX

TO BE USED ONLY ONCE



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Store, transport and dispose

- Store sealed safety boxes, hazardous waste and expired medicines out of reach of children and general public
- Take sharps boxes and bags of hazardous waste to health facility or send with supervisor
 - Safety box should be kept upright during transportation
 - Disposal should preferably be by incineration
- Return expired or damaged medicines to health center or facility further up the system for proper disposal



Complications

- Lack of planning and sources of funding to procure sharps boxes and gloves
- Good waste management in community is dependent on waste management practices at health center
- Awareness in the community e.g. by CHWs of the importance (e.g. use of gloves, safe disposal etc.)

Resources



Guide to Health Care Waste Management for the Community Health Worker



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