

## Test Valley Borough Council

### Safe Working Practices for Managing/Handling Clinical Waste

#### Introduction

Test Valley Borough Council provides a free and confidential clinical waste collection service for its residents.

This service is provided exclusively to domestic properties for infectious waste and sharps, and only as a result of self-treatment. Any waste resulting from treatment by a healthcare worker, within the home, must be removed by the healthcare worker, as it is not household waste.

Infectious waste includes used medical dressings contaminated with body fluids or blood/pus e.g. swabs/soiled surgical dressings/wound drains etc. and is collected in an orange sack.

Sharps waste includes used needles and lancets etc. and is collected in a yellow sharps box. Purple-lidded sharps boxes are also provided where needed.

A clinical waste collection is not required for nappies, incontinence pads, non-infectious dressings, stoma bags, urine containers and catheters where there is no risk of blood contamination. These items must be put in the black household waste bin. Any cardboard packaging can be recycled in the brown recycling bin.

#### How the Service Works

For new customers to receive a collection, their GP, district nurse or other local health professional must register them for the service. Once the Council receives the request form, it will be in contact to set up the collections. Collections take place on a Thursday or Friday.

If a customer is already registered to receive this service, they can manage their collections using [My Test Valley](#) or by calling Customer Services on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700.

Customers with orange sacks receive a weekly collection service. Those with a sharps box are requested to only book a collection when the contents of the box is close to the full line. This is indicated on the side of the box.

All clinical waste must be stored safely on the customer's property until it is collected by the Council.

On a customer's clinical waste collection day, orange sacks must not be overfilled and securely tied up and sharps boxes must be locked. All clinical waste must be placed in a safe and agreed location, by 7am.

#### Assisted or Supported Living Arrangements

If you are supporting an assisted living customer and arranging their clinical waste collection or looking after their clinical waste until it is collected by the Council, you will need to provide a copy of your safe working practices. This must be in advance of any collection being arranged and can be in the form of a risk assessment or safe operating procedure.

It is important that you confirm the following to the Council:

- the clinical waste is domestic in origin and from self-treatment only.

**Note:** waste resulting from treatment by a healthcare worker must be removed by the healthcare worker.

- who will be requesting the collection and overseeing the clinical waste, prior to collection by the Council.

**Note:** this could be the customer/resident, a representative from the assisted living company, someone else (details to be provided), or a combination thereof.

- where the clinical waste will be kept prior to collection by the Council.

**Note:** clinical waste must not be stored in large quantities or for long periods of time. Boxes must be locked shut and sacks sealed. All clinical waste must be kept in a secure location.

- Where the agreed collection place will be.

**Note:** for individual properties, the clinical waste must be stored safely on the property until it is collected by the Council. For assisted living environments with shared facilities, the clinical waste must be stored safely away from residents and members of the public but be accessible to the Council on collection day.

For any questions or enquiries, please contact the Environmental Service on **01264 368370** or email **[environmentalservice@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalservice@testvalley.gov.uk)**

For more information on the Council's domestic clinical waste collection service – visit: **[www.testvalley.gov.uk/clinicalwaste](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/clinicalwaste)**