

## ***Common questions for universal pharmaceutical waste***

**1) Do you need to be trained for pharmaceutical waste?**

Personnel who will be handling UPW must have a brief training annually. To be given by Clean Fuels or a trainer whom has the proper information and was giving training within your department.

**2) What do we do with sharps?**

Sharps will continue to go into your sharps management program.

**3) Can UPW containers go in patient rooms?**

No – only if it is a 17 gallon floor container. The ones we will be using must be kept in a supervised area because the containers we will be utilizing are 18 gallon.

**4) Who will be responsible for collecting UPW and moving it to sheds for central pickup by Clean Fuels?** Each area will be responsible for collecting there items and bringing them to a central location for Clean Fuels to pick up. This location will be determined when we come to each department with the vendor and set up container locations.

**5) Who will be responsible for training and in-service for nursing staff on proper use of UPW containers?**

Clean Fuels will in-service each area that will have UPW on an annual basis. If people miss the training or there is a new employee they may be trained via “train the trainer” by a USF employee within the department. Each department will be responsible to maintain record of training within the binder that will be located at each location.

**6) How often will the waste be picked up?**

Clean Fuels will pick up as often as needed provided that central storage areas (sheds) are being used to capacity. The intent of central storage is to allow USF to accumulate UPW to storage capacity as to keep transportation costs low. Clean Fuels is anticipating every 2 weeks once the program is fully rolled out. USF can legally store UPW containers up to 180 days.

**7) What is the difference between “biomedical waste” and “pharmaceutical waste”?**

Biomedical Waste – any solid or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans, including nonliquid tissue, body parts, blood, blood products, and body fluids from humans and other primates; laboratory and veterinary wastes which contain human disease causing agents; and discarded sharps.

Pharmaceutical waste – expired medications

**8) What do you do in case of spill?** Please see pharmaceutical spill document

**9) What if I have biomedical waste OR pharmaceutical waste mixed with hazardous waste?**

In accordance to Florida Administration Code 62-730, any waste mixed with hazardous waste, shall be managed as hazardous waste.