

## Safe Disposal of Electrical/Electronic Medical Devices

This procedure covers the correct disposal of electronic medical devices and disposable probes manufactured by Diversatek Healthcare that are owned and used by the clinic and/or disposed by the clinic in accordance with the WEEE regulations as well as the clinic's own procedures.

WEEE must only be disposed of via clinic approved contractors and on no account can be taken home or resold for personal profit due to:

- The requirements of the WEEE directive
- The risk of incorrect disposal of clinic marked items
- The insurance implications
- The data protection issues associated with stored data

### References

2012/19/EU     Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive

2017/745     European Medical Device Regulation

### Procedure (Electronic Equipment)

Once the clinic has determined the medical device is no longer serviceable and/or desires to dispose of the equipment, the device should be given to the clinic's designated e-waste recycling company for processing.

1. If the clinic has not already contracted with an e-waste recycling company, then the following link may be used to identify potential recycling companies.

EU:            <https://www.environmental-expert.com/companies/keyword-electronic-waste-recycling-12718/location-europe>

Worldwide:   <https://www.environmental-expert.com/services?keyword=e-waste+recycling>

2. Until the item(s) to be recycled are collected by a recycling company, the item(s) should be placed in a secure, well-ventilated area that has no access to drains. It must be kept separate from all other waste/reuse items.

### Procedure (Probes)

Patient-contacting disposable probes are considered a biohazard after use and must be disposed of properly.

3. The first step in handling biohazard waste is to segregate the various types and place them into suitable containers. This can be done as follows:
  - a. Non-hazardous material or general healthcare waste should be separated from the biohazard waste and can be discarded with the rest of the non-hazardous material.
  - b. If non-hazardous waste is mixed with hazardous waste, then the entire mixture should be considered hazardous and dealt with accordingly.
  - c. Infectious waste is placed in leak-proof plastic bags / containers that are suitable for the type of material and that bear the international infectious substance symbol:



4. No containers should be picked up unless they are properly and completely labelled. The staff of the facility / organization that generated the biohazard waste should promptly replace containers so their own staff always follow safe practices when dumping the waste.
5. The carrier transporting the biohazard waste should be registered with the waste regulation authority, and the biohazard waste disposal company should also hold a permit for their work. The waste should be accompanied by a consignment note from the point of generation to the place of disposal.
6. Biohazard waste transport vehicles should be closed and locked. Empty bags and containers suitable for waste being transported, suitable protective clothing for staff, cleaning equipment, and special kits for dealing with spills / leaks should be available in the vehicle compartments. And if the transportation of the biomedical waste exceeds recommended storage duration limits, a refrigerated container must be used.
7. The treatment is performed by biohazard waste disposal companies registered with the regulating authorities of the locale. Treatment is provided to facilitate biohazard waste disposal.
8. Common methods of treatment are: incineration, autoclaving, and bleaching.

*Note: This procedure has been validated by applying the principles ascribed in consensus standards EN 60601-1-9 Environmentally Conscious Design and 2012/19/EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.*