

WASTE MANAGEMENT ON THE GO

What mobile practitioners need to know

For all professionals involved with the delivery of cosmetic interventions, safe disposal of clinical waste is an integral aspect of the job. Strict protocols are implemented throughout the clinic to ensure that all staff know and understand what waste should go where, and why. The Department of Health's Safe Management of Healthcare Waste clearly outlines the best practice procedure for clinical waste segregation and disposal, recommending a colour coding system to make easy and effective waste management a reality.

But how does this differ for mobile practitioners?

Whether they are doctors, nurses, independent subscribers or dentists, mobile practitioners will go out in their cars and visit a number of beauty salons, hairdressers, cosmetic clinics or practices to deliver cosmetic injectable treatments such as botulinum toxin and dermal fillers to clients. They not only need to ensure the safe transportation and delivery of the tools they require to administer said treatments, but they are also responsible for removing any contaminated waste products and needles, and for disposing of them as safely as possible.

Before waste is taken anywhere, it is essential to ensure all the required information is marked on the container and all necessary documentation has been completed. When it comes to transportation of waste, the correct waste containers must be utilised to store all used instruments and equipment. As these need to be transported on public roads, usually in personal vehicles, it is essential that all containers be UN-approved and rigid – bags cannot be placed directly into a private car or car-derived van. For professionals transporting liquids or tablets, it's important to ensure a sufficient seal on the lid of the container so as to avoid any spillages while on the move.

When disposing of needles, standard sharps containers can be used, but they must be placed inside transportation containers. Two types of containers are available from leading clinical waste specialist Initial Medical, which ensure compliance with the stringent performance test standards set out by the United Nations and required by the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (2009).¹ Supplied with two removable dividing inserts, creating up to three separate compartments, these are ideal for mobile practitioners carrying small quantities of clinical waste, sharps and

'dirty' medical instruments. The fully removable lid is secured by four, easily operable clips for transportation. These transport containers then need to be firmly fastened

in the boot of the vehicle with the in-car transport brackets provided.

For anyone transporting above the ADR load thresholds (see ADR for full details), full ADR provisions apply, including the presence of a 2kg dry powder fire extinguisher and PPE, orange plates on the front, side and rear of the vehicle and an appointed Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor (DGSA). Where only small quantities of clinical waste are carried in private vehicles or car-derived vans, as would usually be the case for mobile practitioners, there is no need to meet these requirements and no additional licenses are required. More information on this can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website.² With regards to insurance, standard car insurance and medical indemnity should cover this, but if you have any questions you should consult with your insurance provider directly.

With this in mind, it is important that mobile professionals are prepared and know how to handle situations in the safest possible way. For example, even when every precaution is taken, in the unlikely event of a road accident we would advise mobile practitioners to inform any emergency services that clinical waste and/or sharps are on board, as per the Duty of Care model. The containers are designed to be robust and withstand small impacts, but if there is a chance that the containers could have been damaged, a forewarning will help prevent any needlestick or personal injuries to emergency service professionals.

It is also important to consider how and when you can dispose of the waste once removed from the premises. As per the Duty of Care regulations, all clinical and sharps waste should be safely stored at all times so it is highly recommended not to leave the waste unattended or in the car overnight. Waste should either be dropped off at your base clinic and safely stored in their basement or locked cupboard, with the rest of the provider's clinical waste, or arrangements should be made with your local collection service to pick up the waste when you return home.

Despite working in a different way to normal cosmetic providers, it remains essential for mobile practitioners to know and understand their responsibilities when it comes to safe and effective waste disposal. More information is available from Initial Medical, who offer the innovative myMedical online portal that collates all the important information you need in one place.

To obtain an exclusively negotiated FREE Clinical Waste and Infection Control Audit from Initial Medical, please complete the form [here](#).

Rebecca Waters, Category Manager, Initial Medical

Rebecca has worked in the Healthcare sector for the past 13 years and was a Research Chemist with Bayer Cropscience prior to joining **Rentokil Initial** in 2003. She keeps up to date on all developments within the clinical waste management industry and is an active member of the CIWM, SMDSA and BDIA.

References

1. Health and Safety Executive. Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (2009) link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/regs.htm> [Accessed March 2017]

2. Health and Safety Executive. Carriage of Dangerous Goods. Guidance manual. Main exemptions. Link www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/manual/exemptions.htm#smallload [Accessed November 2016]

