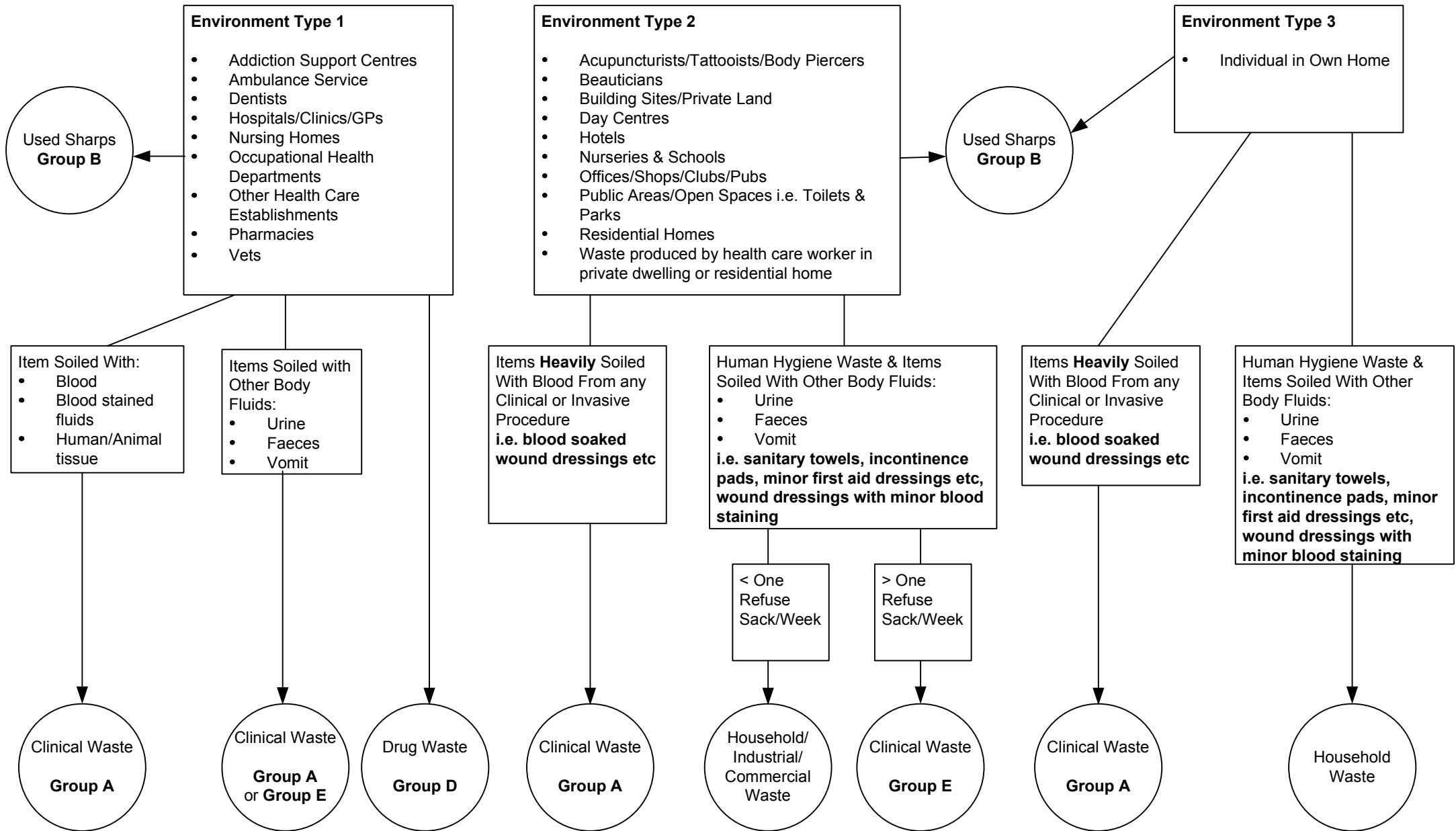


Do you need a Clinical Waste Collection & Disposal Service?
Waste Management Decision Flow Chart



NO OTHER WASTE SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS CLINICAL WASTE



BRENT CLINICAL WASTE GUIDANCE

What is clinical waste?

Clinical waste includes waste that may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it. Large quantities of clinical waste are produced everyday from a whole range of environments. In practice, arrangements for managing clinical waste are based on categorization of the waste into groups (A-E) that present different hazards in different types of environment (see flow chart overleaf). Any waste falling into groups A-E must be dealt with separately from household, commercial or industrial waste. Clinical waste must be segregated into these broad groups for storage, disposal and collection purposes. Examples of different types of clinical waste are shown overleaf.

Groups:

- Group A - Human tissue, animal carcasses/tissue, soiled surgical dressings and other similar soiled waste.
- Group B - Syringes, needles, cartridges or any other sharp item contaminated with a body fluid.
- Group C - Microbiological cultures and potentially infected waste from pathology departments, clinical or research laboratories.
- Group D - Drugs or other pharmaceutical products.
- Group E - Items used to dispose of urine, faeces and other bodily secretions or excretions which do not fall within Group A.

Each Group has different requirements for packaging and disposal.

Who is this guidance sheet for?

This guidance sheet is aimed at employers responsible for the health and safety of staff, and other people who may be affected by their work activities. It is designed to assist employers in ensuring that risks from clinical waste are identified and either eliminated or adequately controlled.

Why should clinical waste be treated differently to ordinary waste?

Clinical waste can cause potentially serious illness and can therefore present risks to the health and safety of people at work or members of the public. It can also damage the environment via pollution. The segregation, handling, storage, transport and disposal of clinical waste must all therefore be properly managed.

How do I deal with clinical waste?

The normal waste collection service must **not** be used for clinical waste. Options for clinical waste disposal include:

- Local Authority collection and disposal service
- Independent contractor collection and disposal service

Any carrier of clinical waste must be appropriately licensed. Details of the rules and regulations relating to safe labeling, storage, collection, disposal and tracing of waste will be available from the licensed contractor. All clinical waste must be handled with caution and the appropriate protective clothing worn.

What happens if clinical waste is not dealt with properly?

The safe disposal of waste is the responsibility of the independent self-employed practitioner, health care establishment owner, or other employer. Employers must assess the risks to their employees and others under both the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 (COSHH), and the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992. Also, those who produce, transport, treat and dispose of clinical waste all have duties under environmental law (The Environmental Protection Act 1990, The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 and The Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996). There are financial penalties for not complying with the requirements of the above legislation either on summary conviction or on indictment.

From where can I get advice regarding clinical waste issues?

- Further information regarding clinical waste : Local Authority (**BRENT - www.brent.gov.uk (see clinical waste under A-Z of services)**)
- Details of local contractors / organizations registered for clinical waste collection, carriage and disposal : Local Authority (**BRENT - (020) 8937 5050**)
- Information regarding the potential infection risks from clinical waste, types of protective clothing required when handling clinical waste, and the management of any injuries resulting from clinical waste (including needle stick injuries) : Infection Control Nurses (BRENT - (020) 8904 0911)
- **COSHH Information Leaflet "A brief guide to the regulations"** (HSE - 01787 881165 or HSE website - www.hse.gov.uk)