



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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**The National Policy on Healthcare Waste
Management in the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Introduction:

The majority of activities associated with healthcare result in the production of waste that may lead to disability and death. Although a large fraction of healthcare waste is very similar to domestic solid waste, there are some healthcare wastes which must be handled and managed properly to reduce or eliminate the risk to health.

Medical waste is one of the most problematic components of solid waste management. Medical waste management in Phnom Penh City is very poor and as a consequence potentially harmful to public health and the environment. It is actually difficult to give precise numbers of people affected by improper management of medical waste. The number of hospitals, clinics, and health centers within the City has been fluctuated from year to year. As a result, the volume of medical waste can reach a top in case that the number of facilities and patients is dramatically increased.

The mismanagement of medical waste poses severe risks to people, especially waste handle workers, waste pickers (children), and the environment. It has been shown that more than 2,000 (survey report on medical waste in Phnom Penh, Ministry of Environment) waste pickers collect daily value of waste for selling at open dumpsite, the so-called Stung Mean Chey, to sustain their lives. These waste pickers can be injured by directly contact with contaminated sharps. Infections of Hepatitis B & C (HBV & HCV) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are of most concerned diseases in Cambodia. The Blacksmith Institute consequently has been supporting the Ministry of Environment (MOE) through Solid Waste and Hazardous Substances Management Office to conduct survey on medical waste management aiming at identifying, reducing, and preventing potentially risks to public health and environment.

Goals:

All healthcare wastes generated by every healthcare facility in Cambodia will be handled and managed such that the wastes will not have a negative impact on human health and on the environment.

Objective:

- 1-Ascertain that all wastes generated in the country are properly segregated, stored, collected, transported, treated and disposed in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

- 2-Institute strategies to minimize the quantities and risks associated with healthcare wastes.
- 3-Abolish the use of known toxic, hazardous compounds (such as mercury) in healthcare facilities.
- 4-Put into practice healthcare waste treatment technologies that are in agreement with international protocols, treaties and conventions such as the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, Kyoto Protocol, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- 5-To institute training programs for all staff in healthcare facilities and routine supervision.
- 6-To develop and put into practice information, education and communication programs for the public on the importance of proper healthcare waste management.
- 7-To ensure that the management of healthcare wastes is in accordance with existing plans for the management of municipal solid wastes in the country. ។

Minister of Health 




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