



## MEDICAL WASTE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM.

Sharipova S.A., Ikramova N. A., Bahriddinova M.N.,  
Boysariyeva M.R., Rasulov R.S., Abdurashidova D.  
Tashkent Medical Academy

Globalization is causing an annual increase in medical, household and industrial waste. Currently, energy, non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, chemical and construction industry facilities are the main sources of waste generation and environmental pollution. Currently, more than 800 types of waste have been recorded, and their number is predicted to increase further in the future. In recent years, our republic has generated 26 percent of agricultural waste, more than 100 million tons of industrial waste, and about 35 million tons of household waste annually. It should be noted that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the generation of medical waste in countries around the world has increased several times. During the pandemic, not only in our country, but also in other countries, so many gauze masks, rubber gloves, and protective equipment were used.

All waste generated from medical treatment and prevention institutions (MTP) should be divided into the following categories according to their epidemiological, toxicological and radiation status and collected, stored and disposed of accordingly. All waste from medical treatment and prevention institutions, regardless of their specialization, is divided into categories according to the level of waste hazard, depending on the type of work. All waste from medical treatment and prevention institutions is divided into categories according to their epidemiological, toxicological and radiation status. Of the above, the most important is that the collection, storage and disposal of medical waste is carried out in accordance with the rules of sanitary legislation. Because waste generated from MTPs, first of all, has a negative impact on public health, but also pollutes the environment and poses an epidemiological threat. The hygienic requirements for waste generated from medical treatment and prevention institutions are reflected in the following document: "Sanitary legislation on the collection, storage and disposal of MTP waste." Currently, a number of works are being carried out in our country on the collection, storage and neutralization of medical waste. It is necessary to completely neutralize waste from medical hospitals and institutions by heating it in a muffle furnace at a temperature of 1200 degrees, since this waste not only pollutes the environment, but also poses an epidemiological threat to residential areas, and creates the basis for the occurrence of various infectious diseases among the population. It is prohibited to store and neutralize waste in the lands of settlements, on lands intended for nature protection, health improvement, recreation, and on lands where tangible cultural heritage objects are located, and in other places where there may be a threat of harm to the life and health of citizens, as well as to nature protection objects and protected natural areas.

Based on the above, we analyzed the data on medical waste generated in DPMs and obtained the following results: in 2020, the number of containers for needles was 408, the amount of syringes was 1,753 kg, systems - 246.8 kg, and category "B" medical waste was 191.6 kg. In 2021, the following amounts were generated and disposed of: the number of containers for needles was 258, the amount of syringes was 1,413 kg, systems - 1,651 kg, and category "B" medical waste was 1,475 kg. According to the data for the first 6 months of 2022, category "B" medical waste was 640.6 kg, which is more than other categories of waste.

Analysis of the above indicators shows that the amount of medical waste generated is increasing from year to year, which in turn makes it advisable to timely and reliably dispose of medical waste generated by treatment and prevention institutions, which will prevent the health of the population and the environment from being contaminated by medical waste.

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