What is Biomedical Waste?

- Biomedical Waste (BMW)- any infectious, pathological chemotherapy waste generated during the administration of medical care or medical research involving humans or animals.

- BMW includes the receptacles and supplies generated during the handling and/or storage of infectious waste.

- BMW does **not** include hazardous and radioactive waste
Biomedical Waste Examples

- Examples of materials contaminated with infectious waste that must be treated as biomedical waste include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Carcasses</td>
<td>Micro-centrifuge tubes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Bedding</td>
<td>Microtiter plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Waste</td>
<td>Pipettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conical tubes</td>
<td>Sharps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable Inoculating Loops</td>
<td>Spill Clean-Up Debris</td>
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</table>

- No liquids, hazardous chemical waste, or radioactive waste are allowed in biomedical waste box-bag units.
What are Sharps?

Sharps- discarded needles, syringes (with or without attached needles), lancets and other items that can puncture or tear an autoclave bag used in animal or human patient care/treatment, medical research, or industrial laboratories.
## Sharps Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sharps Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypodermic needles</td>
<td>Blood vials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syringes</strong> <em>(with or without needles)</em></td>
<td>Broken culture dishes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Needles</strong> <em>(with or without attached tubing)</em></td>
<td>Dental carpels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalpel blades</td>
<td><strong>Pipettes</strong>/<strong>Pipette tips</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Razor blades</td>
<td>Test tubes</td>
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Prior to managing biomedical waste, the following personal protective equipment must be worn:

1. ANSI Z87.1-certified eyewear
2. Nitrile gloves
3. Lab coat
4. Clothing that covers the legs
5. Closed-toed footwear
BMW Box-Bag Unit Materials

1. 4.5 cubic foot biohazard box
2. 1 red biohazard liner bag
3. Clear packing tape
   - No duct tape, lab tape, scotch tape or masking tape allowed
   - Packing tape must be at least 2” wide
4. Scissors
5. Biomedical Waste Labels
6. Permanent Marker
Constructing the BMW Bag-Box Unit

1. Fold the bottom flaps of the box as shown \textit{(Never crisscross flaps)}

2. Use 2 strips of clear packing tape to secure bottom flaps

3. Run the tape at least 6 inches up the side of the box on each side

4. Press down the tape to remove air bubbles

5. Place the red biohazard liner bag in box
Managing Biomedical Waste

- Seal and label each autoclave bag or sharps container when filled.

- **No** liquids, hazardous chemical waste, or radioactive waste are allowed in BMW bags or sharps containers.

- **Never** add sharps to a trash can or fill above the maximum fill line on the container.
Adding BMW Waste to the Box-Bag Unit

- Place large, heavy items on bottom of the box.

- Place smaller, lighter items on top. Do not overfill box.

- **Overfilled** (i.e., boxes greater than 40lbs or that cannot close) or **leaky boxes** will be rejected at pick up or returned for repackaging.
Closing the BMW Bag/Box Unit

1. Tie or tape the red inner liner bag
2. Place a white BMW label on the red inner liner bag
3. Fold the top flaps of the box as shown (Never crisscross flaps)
4. Use 2 strips of clear packing tape to secure the top flaps
5. Run the tape at least 6 inches down the side of the box on each side
6. Press down the tape to remove air bubbles
7. Place a BMW label on the top of the box

8. Write the **Building** and **Room Number** on the label (e.g., CHEM 999)

9. Submit a **Biological Waste Pick-Up** to have the waste removed through EHS
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