



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**POLICY ON DISPOSAL OF CLINICAL WASTE:
SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL**

Summary

1. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the recent publication of a guidance document entitled "Safe Disposal of Clinical Waste" prepared by the Health Services Advisory Committee and published by the Health and Safety Executive following endorsement by the Health and Safety Commission.

Action

2. The guidance document is an authoritative document which is used by Health and Safety Inspectors in describing reliable and fully acceptable methods of achieving health and safety in the workplace. Whilst the guidance document has no legal force, its standing as agreed practical guidance means that it may be referred to in court to demonstrate the standards that need to be met under the Law.

3. Within the guidance document there is advice on appointing Clinical Waste Control Officers. These Officers would be accountable to the Chief Executive or General Manager and be managed on a day-to-day basis by the appropriate Director or Head of Service.

4. More specifically, I would bring to your attention paragraphs 124-127 (page 17) of the document which describe the "Disposal of Pharmaceutical Waste" and remind you that the details of such related procedures in Scotland are outlined in NHS Circular MEL(1992)6 dated 5 November 1992.

5. I enclose a copy of the Guidance Note and ask you to note that further copies priced £4.50 are available from the HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT and from all HMSO bookshops and accredited agents under publication reference, ISBN 0 11 886355X.

25 February 1993

Addressees

For action:

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Health Boards
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Chief Executives,
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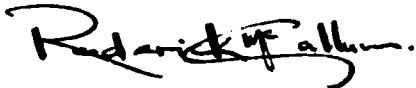
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NHS: 21
MEL(1993)

6. I recommend to you the adoption of this new HSE guidance publication and would ask you to review your current Clinical Waste Management Policies in the light of its contents. From time to time the Management Executive may invite Boards and NHS Trusts to report on safe handling and disposal practice in order that the national position and effective policies can be kept under review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H R McCallum', written in a cursive style.

H R McCALLUM
Director of Estates