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EU-HCWM

*“Developing an EU Standardised Approach to Vocational Educational
Training Awards in Healthcare Waste Management”*

Project No. 541982-LLP-1-2013-1-UK-LEONARDO-LNW

EU-HCWM Partners Healthcare Waste Management Practices

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ICERMS Limited***

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ICERMS Limited



- Started 2002
- Est. 2010 through merger
- National Vocational Training Centre for Waste & Environment Sectors
- Consultancy in Solid Waste Management & Environment
- Healthcare Waste Management



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ICERMS Limited



Operate out of Fairlie a small village about 50 km southwest of Glasgow on the coast. Mostly work in UK; EU; Accession States in Balkan Peninsula but have worked around the world – Afghanistan; Iceland; Jamaica; Mauritius; Mozambique; South Africa



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EU-HCWM



- UK
- Greece
- Poland
- FYROM
- Slovenia
- Albania



Question 1

- Currently there are many treatments that are not necessarily carried out anymore within the HC centres but at the patient's home. This waste can also include sharps and even cytotoxic substances.
- How do you manage in your countries the HC waste generated within home care treatments?
- Is the patient responsible for it?
- Is he/she allowed to put it into the domestic waste containers?
- How is your waste legislation dealing with it?
- Are there initiatives in your country related to regulations and standards for medical waste patient self-management?
- Are there in your country initiatives of medical waste patient self-management that involves the pharmaceutical producers to its extended producer responsibility (EPR)?



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Question 1

Poland - Nurse/Doctor removes waste that they produce –Self Treatment
(Patient Responsible – Domestic Waste) – No legislation - Pharma waste returned
to Pharmacy FOC

FYROM - Nurse/Doctor removes waste that they produce –Self Treatment
(Patient Responsible – Domestic Waste) – No legislation

Greece - Domestic waste and no legislative provisions

Slovenia - Nurse/Doctor removes waste that they produce –Self Treatment
(Patient Responsible – Domestic Waste) – No legislation

UK – Nurse/Doctor removes waste that they produce –Self Treatment
(Patient/Healthboard/Local Authority) – No legislation – Pharma waste returned
to Pharmacy FOC

Albania – Domestic waste and no legislative provisions



Question 2

Are plastic bags always used for any kind of HC waste so that the plastic containers can be reused?

Or waste is put in the plastic containers directly and then the containers are destroyed together with its content?





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Question 2

Poland – Single Use Only

FYROM – Single Use Only

Greece – Single Use Only

Slovenia – Single Use Only

UK – Plastics bags are single use but most sharps boxes are recyclable

Albania – Single use ONLY



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Question 3

Are pedal waste bins compulsory?

Are they systematically used?





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Question 3

Poland - Compulsory

FYROM - Compulsory

Greece - Compulsory

Slovenia – Compulsory

UK - Compulsory

Albania – Not yet Compulsory



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Question 4

Are sharps sterilized and
metal recovered or is
everything destroyed?





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Question 4

Poland – All destroyed

FYROM – All destroyed

Greece – All destroyed

Slovenia – All destroyed

UK – All contents destroyed BUT sharps boxes re-used

Albania – All contents destroyed



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Question 5

Which is the average cost
per kg of HC waste
treatment in your country?





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Question 5

Poland - €0.7 to €1.00/kg

FYROM - €1.00/kg

Greece - €0.52 to €1.76/kg

Slovenia - €1.00/kg

UK - €556.00 - €835.00/tonne

Albania - €3/kg however this includes provision of plastic bags, sharps boxes AND transport



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Question 6

Does your HC waste
legislation establish that
the HC centre has to
formally designate a HC
waste responsible?





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Question 6

Poland - No

FYROM - Yes

Greece - No

Slovenia - Yes

UK – No

Albania - Yes



Question 7

Is it compulsory for HC centres to monitor waste management?

If yes, is kg or m³ used as a standard measure unit?





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Question 7

Poland – Yes, kg

FYROM – Yes, kg

Greece – Yes, kg

Slovenia – Yes, kg

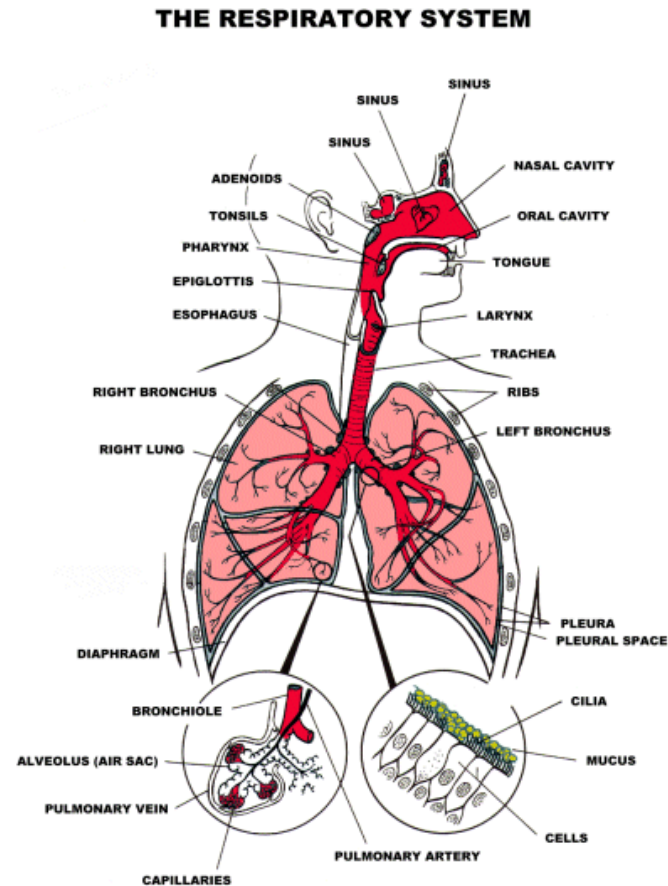
UK – Yes, kg

Albania – No, kg



Question 8

Are human body parts incinerated or sterilized and then sent to landfills?





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Question 8

Poland - Incinerated

FYROM - Buried

Greece - Incinerated

Slovenia - Incinerated

UK - Incinerated

Albania – Incinerated/Buried



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Question 9

Is there a compulsory
colour code for HC waste
containers?

If yes, is it the same in all
the country?





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Question 9

Poland - Yes

FYROM - Yes

Greece - Yes

Slovenia - NO

UK – Yes – NHS guideline (Scotland; Northern Ireland; England & Wales)

Albania – Yes there is a law however it is not applied



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Question 10

Do pharmaceutical
companies usually collect
waste from
pharmaceutical products.
Is it a free service?





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Question 10

Poland - Yes via Hospital Pharmacies

FYROM - No

Greece - No

Slovenia - Yes via Hospital Pharmacies

UK – Yes via Hospital Pharmacies

Albania - No



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Question 11

Do pharmaceutical companies usually collect waste from hospitals' pharmaceutical products?

And is it a service paid by them as an EPR service?

Are there in your country initiatives of hospital pharmaceutical medicines and drugs that involve the pharmaceutical producers to its extended producer responsibility (EPR)?





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Question 11

Poland – No EPR

FYROM – Yes although EPR does not yet apply to pharmaceutical waste from the hospital

Greece – No

Slovenia – Yes all through EPR service

UK – Yes through EPR

Albania - No



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Question 12

Is glass from HC waste recycled
in your country?

Is it recycled together with
domestic glass waste?

Is it previously washed or treated
in some way?





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Question 12

Poland – Recycled once sterilised

FYROM – Not Recycled

Greece – Not Recycled

Slovenia – Recycled once sterilised

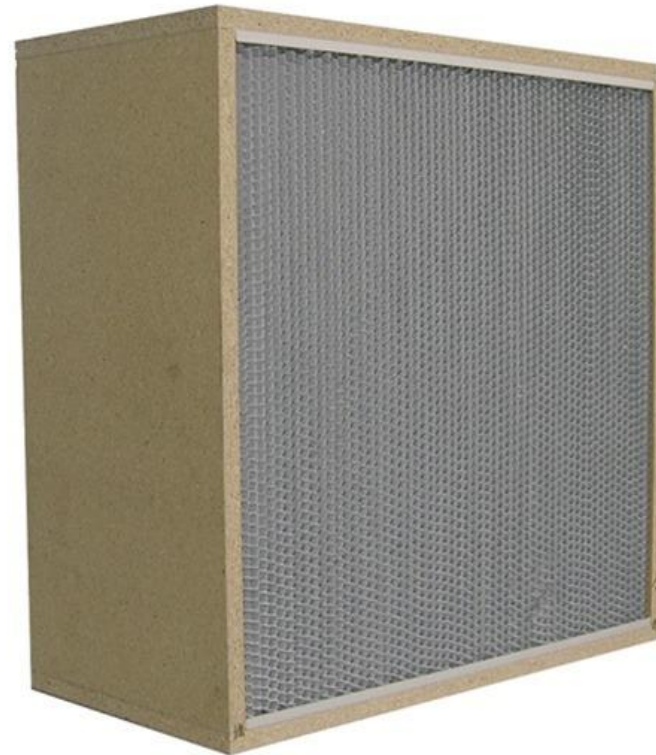
UK – Recycled once sterilised

Albania – Not Recycled



Question 13

- Which is the HEPA filters waste management in your country?
- In which containers/conditions are the HEPA filters transported?





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Question 13

Poland – Managed as a separate waste stream and by a specified contractor

FYROM – No Information

Greece – No specific method of disposal

Slovenia – Bagged for transportation no specified disposal route

UK – Wrapped and sent for Incineration

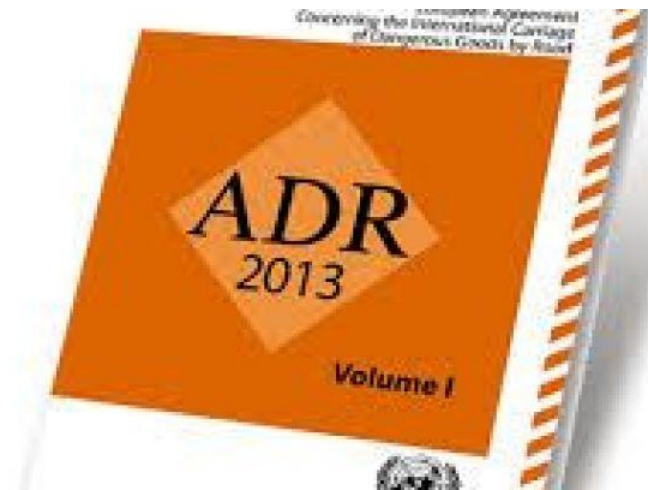
Albania – Landfilled



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Question 14

- Which is the documental system that is used in your country to control HC waste transportation and waste management?





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Question 14

Poland - ADR Regulation applies

FYROM - ADR Regulation applies

Greece - ADR Regulation applies

Slovenia - ADR Regulation applies

UK – ADR Regulation applies plus Waste Transfer notes (NHW) and Waste Consignment notes (HW)

Albania – ADR Regulation applies BUT not complied with in the healthcare waste sector



Question 15

- Which is the waste management of medical electronic appliances or implanted electronic devices such as: artificial pacemakers, baclofen pumps, dialysis machines, and glucosemeters?
- Are they managed as EEW? If yes, are they disinfected at the HC premises before?
- Which is the waste management of these medical electronic devices if they have batteries?





Question 15

Poland - All WEEE and Batteries etc. managed as a separate waste stream and collected by a specialist contractor for recycling. Not cleaned before collection

FYROM - All WEEE and Batteries etc. managed as a separate waste stream and collected by a specialist contractor for recycling. Cleaned before collection

Greece - All WEEE and Batteries etc. managed as a separate waste stream and collected by a specialist contractor for recycling. Cleaned before collection

Slovenia - All WEEE and Batteries etc. managed as a separate waste stream and collected by a specialist contractor for recycling. Cleaned before collection

UK – All WEEE and Batteries etc. managed as a separate waste stream and collected by a specialist contractor for recycling. Cleaned before collection

Albania – All WEEE and Batteries are sent to landfill through the domestic waste stream



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Pre-Acceptance Waste Audit

From 1st October 2010 some producers of healthcare related waste have been required to assess the composition of the waste they produce and inform their waste contractor, in order to assist in its safe collection and disposal.

The Environment Agency has prioritised the applicability of this requirement, based on risk, and so pharmacy contractors have been subject to these requirements from 1st July 2013. Waste contractors will be unable to collect waste from a pharmacy until it has been satisfied that an audit has been carried out, to identify the waste streams and so that it can ensure appropriate disposal.



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Pre-Acceptance Waste Audit II

These requirements are detailed in the document 07-01 Safe Management of Healthcare Waste, available from the Department of Health. Pages 170-184 apply specifically to community pharmacy, and pharmacy contractors will find references to the pre-acceptance audits elsewhere in the document. The Environment Agency has also published a briefing note for producers of waste which pharmacy contractors may find helpful.

With the assistance of the Environment Agency and The Co-operative Pharmacy, PSNC has developed a Pre-Acceptance Waste Audit Tool. This is based upon a similar template prepared with the assistance of the Environment Agency for general practitioners.