PHARMECOLOGY®

The Cost of Your Pharmaceutical Waste Program
(and how to reduce it)

- Pharmaceutical waste is one of the highest costs per unit waste streams generated by healthcare organizations. Simply discarding all pharmaceutical waste in the "black container" and disposing as hazardous waste, while convenient, will increase your disposal cost unnecessarily. Hazardous waste disposal is experiencing unprecedented price increases driven by treatment capacity and service capability shortages. Disposal costs for pharmaceuticals managed as hazardous waste have increased over 40% in the past two years and future increases are expected to exceed typical Consumer Price Index based increases, by a factor of two or more, for the next several years.
- In addition to direct disposal costs for containers, waste transportation and disposal, etc., there are hidden costs for healthcare organizations. Environmental regulations require hazardous waste generators to keep detailed records, provide reporting to state agencies of their waste generation and management and provide training to staff generating and managing hazardous wastes. EPA establishes these requirements based on the volume of hazardous waste an organization generates. EPA has established three classes of generators, Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG), Small Quantity Generators (SQG) and Large Quantity Generators (LQG). The more hazardous waste an organization generates the more extensive these requirements become. As the scope and complexity of these requirements increase from VSQG to LQG, the costs to meet these requirements also increase from a few thousand dollars for VSQGs to tens of thousands of dollars annually for LQGs. If your state is one of the 16 that have not yet adopted EPA's Subpart P regulation, your hazardous waste pharmaceuticals still count towards your generator status.
- Only a small percentage, ~15% by volume, of pharmaceutical waste generated by healthcare organizations is consider hazardous waste by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Federal Regulations) and must be managed as such. Proper segregation of pharmaceutical waste for disposal will reduce the cost of disposal while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Three Key Steps to reducing the cost of pharmaceutical waste disposal.
    - Identify which of your drugs require disposal as hazardous waste based on federal or state requirements.
    - Develop or revise policies and procedures to support your pharmaceutical waste management plan.
    - Provide training and messaging to nursing and clinical staff on desired disposal practices for pharmaceutical wastes.

- PharmE® Inventory Analysis (Inventory Analysis) will categorize your current drug inventory into RCRA hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste including any state-specific regulations. This categorization will allow your organization to meet its hazardous waste determination requirement.
- PharmEcology® provides our patented PharmE® Waste Wizard® (Waste Wizard) allowing subscribers to search for pharmaceutical waste disposal by NDC, product name orgeneric name. PharmEcology also provides State Specific waste categorization at the product level in those states that have stricter definitions of hazardous waste.
- PharmEcology® provides a generic verson of training modules (Computer-based Training) ,which can be customized and updated to your e-learing system and PharmE® Policy and Procedure Templates (Policy and Procedures).

Learn more and request a free demo of PharmEcology's services: info@pharmecology.com