

## Medical Waste Management and Disposal

Nigeria is a West African country with 36 states. Lagos state is one of the 36 states. The agency responsible for waste disposal in Nigeria is Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and like every Nigerian government agency and or establishment it is unreliable and inefficient. It is also responsible for medical waste disposal. It is responsible for picking up medical waste from health facilities. At the health facilities all healthcare professionals have to do while generating waste is to segregate them into their designated areas.

At each consulting room, wards, theatres, laboratories etc, you have the following designated areas for medical waste:

### Sharps container

Every sharp object goes into this container for example used intravenous lines, needles and syringes, blades, scalpels and glass pieces.

### Yellow bag

Highly infectious waste, human anatomical waste, pathological waste goes into this container for example umbilical cord stumps, body parts, amputated parts/organs, tumors, placentas, aborted or dead fetuses, blood soaked cotton bandages, animal tissues, organs, carcasses etc.

### Red bag

- Infected waste materials go into this container; used sanitary towels, used cotton swabs, used catheters, plastics from wards and intensive care units etc

### Black bag

- Dry waste material which is not infectious goes into this container for example paper, plastics, urinary catheter coverings, urinary bag coverings etc.