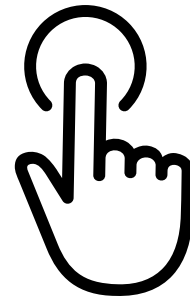


**PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE  
GUIDELINES AND POLICIES**

**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**



**'Go there' Buttons can be found throughout the document. Clicking on them will result in the relevant linked policy opening in your browser.**



#### **DISCLAIMER**

This document was created by DrugWaste International for the sole purpose of education and information provision. This document has not been created for commercial purposes and should not be viewed as such. It includes relevant links to governing policies and documents. All credit is given to the original authors. We encourage clinicians to read the linked policies/guidelines in their entirety to ensure complete understanding. This document is not a completely exhaustive or comprehensive list. Policies and frameworks are constantly being updated. DrugWaste International will attempt to ensure that all information presented is current, however, it is the full responsibility of the reader to ensure they engage with the links to ensure currency of resources.

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# MEDICINES AND POISONS INFORMATION SHEET

## DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF SCHEDULE 8 MEDICINES

**Purpose:** Schedule 8 (S8) medicines (Controlled Drugs) are substances and preparations for therapeutic use which have high potential for abuse, addiction and diversion. In the Northern Territory (NT) the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 (MPTGA) and regulations govern destruction and disposal of S8 substances. In addition, relevant Australian Standards and environmental protection legislation apply (Northern Territory Government, Department of Health, April 2022, pg. 1).

### KEY COMPONENTS



- **Page 1:** How to dispose of S8 Substances
- **Page 2:** Recommendation to use Gel disposal kits
- **Page 2, 3:** Suggested and accepted methods of medicine destruction

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

Schedule 8 Medication poses a high diversion risk and must be rendered **unusable and unrecognisable at point of disposal**.

NT Government recommends:

1. The use of **Gel disposal kits** to ensure drugs are not at risk of diversion.
2. **Segregation of waste** at point of disposal.
3. The use of a **dedicated** pharmaceutical waste bin.

Clinicians must ensure they are compliant with all the above points when disposing of Schedule 8 Medication.

# GUIDELINE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE BY INCINERATION

**Purpose:** This guideline incorporates International and Australian requirements for the incineration of clinical and related waste and Australian Quarantine facilities ...

Compliance with these guidelines will enable:

·Uniformity in the operation and regulation of waste incineration facilities within the Northern Territory; and

·Environmental Protection to an acceptable Government standard

(NT Environmental Protection Agency, 2013, pg. 1)

## KEY COMPONENTS



- **Page 3:** Clinical and Related Waste defined
- **Page 6:** Pharmaceutical Waste defined
- **Page 18:** 10.1 Overview of incineration standards surrounding clinical waste disposal

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

NT government provides guidelines specifically in relation to clinical and related waste to **ensure environmental protection** to an acceptable standard.

- Pharmaceutical and clinical waste are clearly defined concepts with **clearly defined regulations**.
- **Pharmaceutical waste must be incinerated** in a highly regulated system to ensure destruction and hence environmental protection.

Clinicians must ensure that pharmaceutical waste enters a waste stream bound for incineration. This mitigates the possibility of drugs leeching into soil, or waterways and causing irreversible environmental damage.

# SUMMARY

The Northern Territory Government has specific policies and directives surrounding pharmaceutical waste.

- In the NT, **gel disposal kits are the recommended method** of disposal for dangerous drugs.
- **Segregation** of waste is not optional but mandated
- **Dedicated pharmaceutical waste bins** are recommended to ensure compliance.
- Pharmaceuticals **MUST** be **incinerated** at end of life.

Clinicians must ensure they are complying with both the EPA and the guidelines put forward by the Department of health when disposing of medicines.

# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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# References

Destruction and disposal of Schedule 8 Substances. Northern Territory Government, Department of Health. April 2022.

[https://health.nt.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/1099630/s8-destruction-information-sheet.pdf](https://health.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1099630/s8-destruction-information-sheet.pdf)

Guideline for the Disposal of Waste by Incineration. Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority. November 2013. Version 2.0.

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