

Assessment of Healthcare Staff Knowledge on Healthcare Waste Management at the University Hospital Center of Batna

Labed Amina

Department of Ecology and Environment, University of Batna 2, Batna, Algeria

Labed Housna

Department of Ecology and Environment, University of Batna 2, Batna, Algeria

Bousnane Nour El Houda

Department of Ecology and Environment, University of Batna 2, Batna, Algeria

Abstract

Healthcare waste, also referred to as "Hospital Waste" or "Medical Waste," encompasses all the waste generated by the operations of a healthcare facility. Proper management and safe disposal of these wastes are essential for disease prevention and environmental protection. Effective waste management relies heavily on the active involvement of healthcare staff. A lack of knowledge about Healthcare waste management can directly affect the overall process, potentially leading to environmental harm and the spread of infections. The aim of this study is to assess the knowledge of healthcare staff involved in handling Healthcare waste. This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted over eighteen months during the 2015/2016 period at the University Hospital Center of Batna. A questionnaire was administered to the healthcare staff handling Healthcare waste, and the collected data was analyzed using computer software. The study found that healthcare staff lacked sufficient knowledge and proper practices in managing healthcare waste, particularly in key areas such as sorting, collection, storage, transportation, and disposal. It highlights the need for comprehensive training and awareness programs for all staff involved in waste management. Successful healthcare waste management requires the commitment, cooperation, and active participation of all employees in healthcare facilities.

Keywords

Healthcare waste, medical and pharmaceutical waste, hospital waste, healthcare waste with infectious risks, and the University Hospital Center of Batna.