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During  **COVID-19**
For Gynaecologists

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MODULE 3

Biomedical Waste Management In COVID Times

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Background

- We all know that we are going through a lockdown & difficult times due the pandemic of Covid 19. So in this Covid era we, the practising Doctors have to follow the guide lines in the hospital for handling & disposal of waste generated during treatment or quarantine of Covid 19 patients in our hospitals.
- As we all know in order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, state & central govt. have initiated various steps, which include setting up of quarantine centres, isolation wards, sample collection centres & laboratories.
- Bringing you specific guidelines of management of waste generated during diagnostic & treatment processes of Covid-19 suspects or confirmed patients which are required to be followed by all the stakeholders like isolation wards, quarantine centres, sample collection centres, labs and common biomedical waste treatment & disposal facilities in addition to existing practise under BMW management rules, 2016.
- These guidelines are based on current knowledge on COVID-19 & existing practices in management of infections waste generated in hospitals while treating viral & other diseases like HIV, H1N1.

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Guidelines for COVID-19 Isolation wards & quarantines centres.

- Keep separate **colour coded bins/ bags/ containers** in wards & maintain proper segregation of waste as per BMWM(Bio Medical Waste Management) rules 2016 as amended by CPCB(Central Pollution Control Board).



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Guidelines for COVID-19 Isolation wards & quarantines centres.

- A precaution **double layered bags** (use 2 bags) should be used for collection of waste from COVID-19 isolation wards so as to insure no leaks and adequate strength.



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Guidelines for COVID-19 Isolation wards & quarantines centres.

- Collect & store COVID-19 biomedical waste separately prior to handing over the same to CBWTF(Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility). A **dedicated collection bin** labelled as COVID-19 to store these waste should be used & kept separated in temporary storage room prior to handing over to authorized staff of CBWTF. Such biomedical waste can also be shifted directly from isolation wards into CBWTF collection van.
- It is mandatory to **label bags or containers** for collecting biomedical waste from Covid-19 wards as “**COVID-19 WASTE**”. This marking would help CBWTFs to identify the waste easily for priority treatment & disposal immediately when received.
- A **separate record** of waste generated from COVID-19 wards should be maintained. Separate dedicated trolleys & collection lines in COVID-19 isolation wards should be used with label of “COVID-19 WASTE” pasted on these items.
- The inner & outer surfaced of such containers/ bags/ trolleys used for storage of COVID-19 waste should be **disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite** solution.

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Guidelines for COVID-19 Isolation wards & quarantines centres.

- Depute **dedicated sanitation workers** separately for BMW & general solid waste so that waste can be collected & transferred timely to temporary storage area. Best practices for protecting the health of workers at sanitation treatment facilities should be followed. Workers should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes protective outerwear, gloves, boots, goggles or a face shield, and a mask, they should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- WHO also had developed certain guidelines to summarize the proper disposal of human waste and also sanitization i.e. **WASH** (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) in health care setting. Consideration should be given to safely managing human excreta throughout the entire sanitation chain, starting with ensuring access to regularly cleaned, accessible, and functioning toilets or latrines and to the safe containment, conveyance, treatment and eventual disposal of sewage.



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Guidelines for sample collection centres & laboratories For COVID-19 suspected patient.

- Information of opening & operation of COVID-19 sample collection centres & laboratories to the concerned SPCB is mandatory. The guide lines for sample collection centres & laboratories is the same as for quarantine centres & isolation wards



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Duties of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility(CBWTF):

- Use dedicated vehicle to collect COVID-19 ward waste. It is not necessary to place separate labels on such vehicles.
- Vehicles should be sanitized with sodium hypochlorite or any appropriate chemical disinfectant after every trip.



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Guidelines for Handling, Treatment, and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients.

- COVID-19 waste should be disposed off immediately upon receipt at facility.
- In case it is required to treat and dispose more quantity of bio molecules waste generated from COVID-19 treatment, CBWTF may operate their facilities for extra hours , by giving information to SPCBs/PCCs
- Operator of CBWTF shall maintain separate record for collection, treatment and disposal of COVID-19 waste
- Do not allow any worker showing symptoms of illness to work at the facility. May provide adequate leave to such workers and protecting their salary.

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Duties of SPCBs / PCCs

- Shall maintain records of COVID-19 treatments wards / quarantine centres / quarantine homes in respective states.
- Ensure proper collection and disposal of biomedical waste as per BMW rules, 2016 and SoPS given in this guidance document;
- Allow CBWTFs to operate for extra hours as per requirement;
- May not insist on authorisation of quarantine camps as such facilities does not qualify as health facilities. However, may allow CBWTFs to collect biomedical waste as and when required.

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