

The Safe and Effective Management by Municipal Workers of Infectious Waste Materials Disposed of by Home Health and Medical Care Services

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Abstract : The management of waste materials disposed of by home health and medical care services (HHMC wastes) in Japan is now receiving greater attention from governmental workers dealing with general-household waste materials. In general, waste materials are collected in a mixed form, and then are transported and disposed of along with municipal solid wastes. At some places, municipal workers are suffering needle-prick accidents. There is no denying the fact that infections associated with HHMC waste materials do sometimes occur. HHMC waste materials with sharp-edges, such as injection needles, should be directly collected and transported to medical institutions by either patients or their families. The collection and transportation by patients and their families can thus prevent municipal workers from experiencing needle-prick accidents. One of the most important strategies for medical institutions is the education of patients and their families. Improved rules for the management and handling of HHMC waste materials are therefore essential for the safe and effective management of municipal workers.

Key words : Municipal workers, Medical institution, Infectious waste materials, Home health and medical care service