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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GLOBAL HEALTHCARE WASTE PROJECT

MODULE 7: Walkthrough of a Healthcare Facility

All Participants



Waste Containers and Segregation

- ☐ Observe waste segregation practices.
- ☐ Are the bins properly color-coded or marked?
- ☐ Look into open bins and note the contents.
- ☐ Evaluate the level of segregation.
- ☐ Are bins overflowing or are they no more than 3/4th full?
Are there enough bins in the ward/department?
Are the bins the right size?
- ☐ Are the bins or combination of bins in the right locations?
Are there bins in the nurse's trolley?
- ☐ What is the general condition of the bins?
- ☐ Note the quantity and types of waste generated.
- ☐ List hazardous procedures and how to prevent them.
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Sharps Management

- ☐ Note the number and types of injections given. Are some injections unnecessary?
- ☐ What types of syringes are used?
- ☐ Evaluate the types of sharps containers.
- ☐ Are the containers in the proper locations?
- ☐ Look into sharps containers and evaluate the level of segregation.
- ☐ Is recapping practiced?
- ☐ What is the procedure when a needle-stick injury occurs?
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Waste Collection and Transportation

- ☐ Observe the mode of collection and internal transportation.
- ☐ Evaluate the route of transportation.
- ☐ Evaluate the frequency and times of collection.
- ☐ What type of collection carts or trolleys are used? Are there enough? What is the condition of the carts or trolleys?
- ☐ Are the waste handlers using proper PPE?
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Storage

Evaluate:

- ☐ Waste storage area
- ☐ Location, surroundings, access
- ☐ Overall cleanliness
- ☐ Marking, signs
- ☐ Cleaning and disinfection area
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Treatment and Disposal

Evaluate:

- ☐ Type of treatment method
- ☐ Location, surroundings, access, cleanliness
- ☐ Regulatory permits and approvals
- ☐ Training and use of PPE by the operators
- ☐ Monitoring and record-keeping
- ☐ Preventive maintenance schedule
- ☐ Description of the treatment area
- ☐ Description of the final disposal site
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Housekeeping and Engineering

Evaluate:

- ☐ Availability and conditions of bins, bags, cleaning supplies, other consumables
- ☐ Use of PPE
- ☐ Maintenance of needle cutters
- ☐ Maintenance of mercury sphygmomanometers
- ☐ Constraints on maintaining segregation
- ☐ Mercury spill management procedures
- ☐ Liquid spill management procedures
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Hospital HCWM policies

- ☐ Policies on waste management
- ☐ Role of different facility staff in waste management
- ☐ HCWM organization
- ☐ Accreditation / certifications
- ☐ Orientation programs and training protocols
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement

Mercury Management

- ☐ What are the policies regarding mercury?
- ☐ Evaluate the procedures for a mercury spill.
- ☐ Are mercury spill kits available?
- ☐ How are mercury from spills, amalgam, and mercury-contaminated waste stored in the facility?
- ☐ Evaluate the interim storage facility used for mercury waste.
- ☐ What happens to the mercury?
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Liquid Waste Management

- ☐ Identify different sources of liquid waste in the facility.
- ☐ How are blood and body fluids disposed of?
- ☐ What types of chemicals and disinfectants are used in the facility? What concentrations are used? How are they disposed of?
- ☐ Does the facility treat its wastewater?
- ☐ Where does the wastewater go outside the facility?
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Monitoring and Reporting

Evaluate:

- ☐ Existing reporting formats on waste management
- ☐ Reporting system on waste management and infection control
- ☐ Role and responsibility of nodal officers in monitoring and reporting
- ☐ Monitoring system
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Occupational Safety

- ☐ Observe the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by doctors, nurses, paramedics, auxiliary staff, waste handlers.
- ☐ Note the availability and condition of PPE.
- ☐ Are there accident reporting procedures?
- ☐ Ask about vaccinations.
- ☐ Are there patient safety issues?
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Infection Control

Ask the infection control officer about:

- ☐ Current infection control practices
- ☐ Existing infection control policies and protocols
- ☐ Hand hygiene
- ☐ Disinfection and sterilization practices
- ☐ Information on the infection control committee
- ☐ Surveillance measures
- ☐ Prevalent infections
- ☐ Rate of infections before and after HCWM was implemented in the facility
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improvement.

Training and Awareness-Raising

- ☐ How many training sessions have been held on HCWM?
- ☐ Are records of training kept?
- ☐ How frequent are the trainings?
- ☐ How have the trainings been evaluated by the participants?
- ☐ Evaluate awareness-raising posters and other awareness-raising materials on HCWM.
- ☐ Think of suggestions for improving training and awareness-raising.