Disposal of Carcinogens, Chemotherapy Waste and other Hazardous Drugs

Definitions
Chemotherapy waste: unused amounts and residue of pharmaceutical compounds used to treat disease.
Group 1 and 2A carcinogens: carcinogens identified by the International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC) as being known to cause human cancer.
Hazardous drugs: any pharmaceuticals that fall under the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) 1990 definition of hazardous drugs. These include pharmaceuticals that are P-listed or U-listed chemicals by the EPA, or those listed in the “NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2014”.

Procedures
When indicated, the following procedures must be adhered to for the disposal of carcinogens, chemotherapy waste, and other hazardous drugs:

- **Drug product containers** holding any amount and even empty product vials must be managed as hazardous waste and disposed of per the University's Hazardous Chemical Waste Management Guidebook.
- **Materials that are saturated** with carcinogens, chemotherapeutics, or other hazardous drugs, such as overtly contaminated garments, and all spill clean-up material, should be placed in a leak-proof container before boxing for disposal as hazardous waste.
- **Other waste** contaminated with chemotherapeutics may be disposed of in yellow bags for incineration. This includes:
  - completely empty delivery devices, such as syringes and IV bags
  - animal bedding
  - gowns, gloves, tubing, and wipes
- **Sharps** contaminated with trace carcinogens or hazardous drugs must be disposed of in a separate sharps container that is labeled “Chemo Sharps,” sealed, and placed in a yellow bag for incineration.
- **Drinking water** (used in animal experiments) may get sewered depending on the concentration of drugs or carcinogens added. Please fill out the Permission to Sewer form, submit it to the Chemical Waste Program, and wait for your written approval before disposal.

To request yellow bins: Contact the FM Call Center (4-2900) to arrange for drop off and pick up on the Twin Cities campuses. Contact the UMD EHS Office (218-726-7139) for yellow container drop off and pick up on the Duluth campus. For all other locations, contact your UHS representative.
References

University of Minnesota Hazardous Chemical Waste Management Guidebook

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Managing Antineoplastic (Chemotherapy) Waste

NIOSH Publication No. 2014-138: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings

International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC)