



Disposal of Found Drugs or Substances

PURPOSE:

To outline the process for handling and disposing of drugs or substances found on the property that are left behind by clients, whether intentionally or not intentionally.

PROCEDURE:

The disposal method depends on the amount present.

1. Drug amounts or substances up to a single dose, a point, or one 10th of a gram should be considered biohazard waste. Always use routine practices/universal precautions and appropriate personal protective equipment if handling drugs or substances left behind.
 - 1.1. Don gloves and place the item in a resealable bag such as a Ziploc bag. Place the resealable bag in a tamperproof biohazard bin such as a sharps container. If you use tongs or a claw-like item to pick up the item, ensure to decontaminate after use.
 - 1.2. Notify your manager or supervisor of the drug or substance left behind and the process used to dispose of it.
2. If the amount of substance found is larger than a single dose; appears to look like it is part of a crime such as a substantial amount; multidose or multiple smaller packages; use routine practices/universal precautions and personal protective equipment to secure the item.
 - 2.1. Don gloves and place the item into a resealable bag such as a Ziploc bag, then place that into a resealable plastic bag, and place that inside another resealable plastic bag. By triple bagging the substance, it ensures it is well-sealed, and minimizes the chance of escaping the bag.
 - 2.2. Place in an envelope, and attach a label with the following information: Date, time, and location that the substance was found; and a description of the sample. Seal the envelope with the label. Place in a locked cabinet and notify your manager or supervisor immediately.
 - 2.3. Drugs or substances that are accidentally or intentionally left behind by clients cannot be returned to clients.
 - 2.4. Call the RCMP non-emergency phone line to notify of need for pick up. The unknown substance shall remain secured in the locked cabinet until retrieved by RCMP.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

Personal protective equipment
Biohazard container/sharps container
Resealable plastic bags

REFERENCES:

WHRA: Managing Drugs Left Behind: Draft (no date)
RCMP: What to do with found drugs <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=2087&languageId=1&contentId=79369>
Phone Call to RCMP Portage on 19 Jul 2023 at 0900.