Materials and Methods This included:

- Revision of the existing pharmacy waste control manual and comprehensive list of hazardous drugs. This laminated list with a visual guide to the waste streams was displayed throughout the pharmacy.
- The list was used to ‘code-tag’ and highlight all existing hazardous material in the software system.
- New hazardous products were identified following an initial Quality Assurance assessment.
- A new permanent self-adhesive purple ‘Hazardous – dispose of appropriately’ sticker was designed for attachment to each package of relevant items by stores staff on receipt.
- A leaflet was designed following discussions with NBT patient panel.

Results The new system was agreed/ratified through NBT Medicines Governance Group before implementation. The NBT waste management team adopted this purple waste stream model throughout NBT and amended policies/procedures. Awareness was raised with all staff through existing training sessions to ensure trust-wide uptake and continued compliance.

Conclusions NBT Pharmacy has developed a waste control mechanism to process hazardous waste to ensure compliance with all legal requirements. Following recent external independent audits by the current waste contractors and the Environment Agency, the new model was described as ‘very impressive’ and stated that this ‘more than satisfied that the department and trust are fully compliant with waste regulations’.

Abstract DGI-070 Table 1

NBT leaflet

§ The medicine that you have been prescribed has been classified as hazardous waste.
§ This medicine should be disposed of safely as it could be hazardous if it is disposed of in household waste or via the sink or toilet.
§ This medication could also be dangerous if taken or handled by anyone other than the patient.
§ Any unused medicine should be returned to a pharmacy for disposal.
§ This medicine should be taken as directed by your Doctor or Pharmacist and should only be taken if prescribed by your Doctor or Pharmacist.
§ Keep all medication out of the reach and sight of children.

Thank you for your co-operation.
NHSC. Constitution. Information on your rights and responsibilities. Available at www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/constitution (Last accessed March 2010)

If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.
© North Bristol NHS Trust. First Published October 2010. NBT002212

No conflict of interest.