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Q: What state/federal regulations do nursing homes have to comply with regarding medical waste disposal?

A: Medical waste is generally handled/regulated through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Their requirements can be found at http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/special-waste/pimw/index. With respect to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the issue of medical waste is referenced through their respective infection control requirements. For SNF/NF long-term care facilities, the IDPH requirements are found in (77 Ill. Adm. Code 300)- 300.696 - Infection Control and the federal CMS requirements can be found at F441 – 42 CFR 483.65 - Infection Control.