



Environmental  
Protection Agency

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director

Re: Blanchard Valley Medical Associates  
Infectious Waste Inspection  
Hancock County

October 14, 2010

Mr. Terry Yunker  
200 West Pearl Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Dear Mr. Yunker:

On September 23, 2010, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) conducted an inspection at Blanchard Valley Medical Associates (Facility). This Facility is a registered large quantity generator of infectious waste and must meet the standards set forth in Chapter 3745-27 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). I represented Ohio EPA. Matt Missler, Marty Barton, and you represented the Facility during the inspection.

Multiple rooms were inspected for appropriate sharps containers and storage. Some items of concern were observed in the "specialty" area of the Facility. Room 75 contained a sharps container with multiple used sharps that were improperly discarded. The used sharps were sitting on the lid of the sharps container and were not properly discharged into the sharps container. Potential exposure to these sharps existed. OAC Rule 3745-27-30(B)(3) states that the Facility **shall place sharp infectious waste in a sharps container**. The owner/operator of Blanchard Valley Medical Associates is in violation of OAC Rule 3745-27-30(B)(3) for failure to properly discard of sharp infectious wastes. Please ensure all doctors and nurses are reminded of the importance of properly discarding sharp infectious waste completely into the sharps containers. Ms. Barton promptly discarded the sharps appropriately into the sharps container at the time the violation was noted.

Another item of concern was observed in room 73. A sharps container was observed to be filled above the full line. Ms. Barton was made aware of the container and a nurse in the area immediately removed the full container and took it to the infectious waste storage room and replaced it with a new container. Please ensure all doctors and nurses are reminded not to fill the sharps containers above the full line.

An additional phase of the inspection consisted of examination of the infectious waste storage room. This represents the only storage area for the Facility. The door was properly labeled at the time of inspection and locked. The room and associated waste was well maintained.

Mr. Terry Yunker  
October 14, 2010  
Page 2

A review of the spill containment and clean-up procedure, along with the associated spill kits, followed. All of the required information, in accordance with OAC Rule 3745-27-30(B)(10), was present, except for the location of the second spill kit. Ohio EPA recommended that a second copy of the procedure and second spill kit be kept at the nurses' station on the west end of the Facility during previous inspections. Ohio EPA verified that a copy of the procedure and spill kit was located at the nurses' station during this inspection. However, please ensure the location of this spill kit is added to the spill procedure. The kits had all of the required components as outlined in OAC 3745-27-30(B)(11).

The treatment shipping paper system was also reviewed. The treatment shipping papers were inspected and found to be in order. The Ohio EPA Generator Registration Certificate was also readily available at the Facility.

This correspondence addresses specific observations only for the areas of the Facility that were inspected. Nothing present in, nor absent from this correspondence is intended to mean that no other violations existed at the facility at the time of the inspection.

Compliance with the requirements in this letter, or the solid and infectious waste provisions contained in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3734 and the rules promulgated thereunder, does not relieve the owner/operator of Blanchard Valley Medical Associates from their obligations to comply with other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Northwest District Office at (419) 373-3079.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Scoles, RS  
Environmental Specialist II  
Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

/llr

cc: \_DSIWM-NWDO:File:Hancock County, Infectious Waste

ec: Mike Reiser, DSIWM-NWDO