



Bassett Healthcare Network

Laboratory

Title: Laboratory Specific Procedure for Handling Radioactive Patient Waste

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Revision#: 3.52



Bassett Healthcare Network

Bassett Medical Center

The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital Clinical Laboratory

General Laboratory

Title: Laboratory Specific Procedure for Handling Radioactive Patient Waste

Revision: 3.52

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**Bassett Healthcare
Clinical Laboratory
Laboratory Procedure for Handling Radioactive Patient Waste**

1. Follow the policy and procedures as outlined in the following document:
 - a. Blood Work on Patients Undergoing Diagnostic or Therapeutic Radioactive Material Procedures, Policy #RAD-002.G
 - b. General Radiation Safety Procedures, Policy #RAD-001.B
2. All blood, urine, stool containers and aliquot tubes must be labeled with a Radioactive Materials sticker.
3. All materials that come in contact with the specimen (transfer pipettes, pipette tips, specimen cups, reagent strips, etc.) must be segregated into a separate small biohazard bag. Label the bag with a Radioactive Material sticker. When analyses are complete, seal the bag and place in the lead-lined box in the Gross Room, behind the lead shielding.
4. The Chemistry lab Geiger counter and radioactive storage bin are located in the Surgical Pathology Gross Room. Place the Core Lab radioactive specimen tubes in the empty beaker in this box. If you have, any extra testing supplies that go with the sample put them in a specimen bag and leave them with the sample inside the box.
5. The Chemistry Technical Specialist, or their designee, is responsible for monitoring this waste until it has decayed to background levels. For most agents this will be just a couple of days. However some seldom-used isotopes may be up to 1 month.
6. Fill out the specimen tracking log sheet. This is located above the bench in the Surgical Pathology Gross Room.
7. The Geiger counter is located on top of the brown cabinet next to the lead lined box for if monthly check is needed.
8. Once background levels have been reached, the material can go into the Regulated Medical Waste Stream.
9. If storage capabilities exceed, call Nuclear Medicine at ext. 3600 to pick up and store the necessary waste.

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Original Approver:

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