COVID-19 Waste Container Use

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Medical waste or trash generated in the patient care room during the care of patients infected with COVID-19

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In Patient-care Room Waste Container Preparation

Preparing the Waste Container with a New Bag

- Primary packaging of waste should take place where the waste is generated by staff wearing appropriate PPE
- Waste containers should be lined with a leak-proof bag of appropriate thickness
- Bags should be large enough to overlap the edge of the waste container
- Bags should be placed into the waste container without creating an air pocket under the bag

Prior to starting, don clean gloves or perform hand/glove hygiene

*Waste generated during the care of COVID-19 patients is Category B infectious substance waste and should be managed according to standard waste processes*
Waste container bags should be strong enough to contain the contents without risk of rupture
- Make sure to have extra bags in the patient’s room, this will avoid having to leave the room for supplies
- Place waste containers close to the area where tasks will be performed
- Do not allow waste containers to become more than two-thirds full to allow for safe closure
- Do not place waste containers where they can become a tripping hazard
- Do not place sharps in the bag
  - Glove box corners can tear bags when disposed of in the waste container
  - Gently place trash into the container
- Never compress the contents in the waste container, because that action can cause the upward dispersal of particles
- Never throw or toss anything into the waste container, as this can cause the upward dispersal of particles and there is potential to miss the waste container
**In Patient-care Room Waste Container Bag Closure: Overhand knot**

**Important: Do not let gown touch the floor**

**Important: Do not position head over the bag’s opening**

1. Grab the opposite corners of the bag
2. Raise corners above the bag
3. Twist the corners
4-5. Continue to twist the corners a few more times
6. Stand up to continue the twisting process
7. Tighten the twisted material to facilitate a well-formed loop
8. Create a loop with the tightly twisted section of the bag
9. Thread the loop with the working end of the twisted bag
10. Tighten the knot
In Patient-care Room Waste Container Bag Closure: Gooseneck knot

**Tying a Gooseneck Knot**

1. Grab the opposite corners of the bag
2. Raise corners above the bag
3. Twist the corners
4-5. Continue to twist the corners a few more times
6. Stand up to continue the twisting process
7. Tighten the twisted material to facilitate a well-formed loop
8. Create a loop with the tightly twisted section of the bag
9. Secure the loop with a long swatch of strong adhesive tape (For example, masking tape)

**Important:**
- Do not let gown touch the floor
- Do not position head over the bag’s opening