

Flow Chart for Pharmaceutical Waste

Note from IJC: A state department of natural resources and a waste hauler have seen this flow chart. In fact, the waste hauler told the hospital's director of environmental services that she was "way ahead of other hospitals." An expert who reviewed the waste flow chart at IJC's request noted that it might be confusing since the hospital has chosen to manage all pharmaceuticals as hazardous waste. They also use the term "narcotics" instead of controlled substances, which is not really accurate from a pharmaceutical perspective. By definition, narcotics are opium derivatives. The list of controlled substances now also includes a variety of tranquilizers, painkillers, and other abused drugs, including anabolic steroids, such as testosterone.

