



**News Release
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council**

Critical Decisions Regarding Pharmaceutical Waste: Second in 'Laundry Ledger' Series Recaps HLAC/ARTA Sponsored Webinar

PLAINFIELD, IL - Sept. 5, 2017 - In the second of a three-part [Laundry Ledger](#) series, co-authors examine important decisions laundry personnel need to make regarding the management of pharmaceutical waste received at a facility.

The series recaps a recent webinar, "Managing Pharmaceutical Waste: What Healthcare Laundry Facilities Need to Know," sponsored by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) and the American Reusable Textile Association (ARTA). The series is co-authored by webinar presenters Charlotte A. Smith, RPh., MS, Senior Regulatory Advisor, PharmEcology services for WM Sustainability Services, Houston, TX; and Gregory Gicewicz, past president of HLAC and owner/operator of the healthcare laundry Sterile Surgical Systems, Tumwater, WA.

The [second article](#) looks at far-reaching matters ranging from whether a laundry can realistically return waste back to a healthcare facility; what the laundry needs to do if it decides not to take ownership of the waste; and what it needs to do if it does take ownership. A link to the article can also be found at HLAC's [LinkedIn](#) company page.

The article points out that "there's no legal pathway available to return these drugs to the facility from where they originated," but suggests the laundry remind healthcare customers on the need for continuous employee training on the proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

Still, if the laundry determines it is not going to take ownership of the waste, the article provides several steps necessary, from notifying the hospital to determining if the waste is hazardous or not and what to do in either instance.

The article contends that taking ownership of the waste makes the most sense for the laundry "from a regulatory and competitive perspective," and provides ways to manage - and store - the three basic waste streams - trace chemotherapy, hazardous and non-hazardous - most effectively.

The third article in the Laundry Ledger series will wrap up by discussing in more detail which vendors are appropriate for each waste stream, how to identify and manage DEA controlled substances (drugs of abuse), and what the laundry's responsibilities are with respect to protecting employees from inadvertent exposure to pharmaceutical waste. The full presentation (available as a PDF) can be found at

HLAC's website, www.hlacnet.org, or [here](#).

"HLAC requires that a laundry facility meet specific standards related to its handling of pharmaceutical waste to pass inspection," said John Scherberger, president of HLAC. "Having access to these articles should prove helpful to those laundries wanting to ensure their processes are current and follow accepted, best-practice guidelines."

About HLAC

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. Visit www.hlacnet.org and on Twitter [@NewsHlac](https://twitter.com/NewsHlac).

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