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Sodexo Healthcare launches new waste management policies

Sodexo Healthcare, a leading provider of facilities management services for the healthcare sector, has launched two new policies designed to improve waste management across its operations. The policies are the culmination of 18 months of analysis and research and complement existing client policies and procedures.

Sodexo Healthcare currently has contracts with NHS hospitals to manage the storage, collection and removal of clinical, general and hazardous waste from sites. The clinical policies have been distributed to each Sodexo Healthcare unit, including Stoke Mandeville Hospital - where Iain Anderson, managing director, Sodexo Healthcare, recently presented the policies to the unit team - Queen's Hospital in Romford, King's College and Roehampton Hospitals in London and Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester.

The policies cover both clinical and non-clinical waste management procedures and are in place to ensure compliance with all applicable waste and environmental legislation, policy requirements and recognised best practice such as ISO 14001, that are relevant to waste management operations at client sites.

To ensure the policies are executed properly, Sodexo's unit managers are offered a full set of written procedures, training aids and audit documents as support. Furthermore, the policies are supported by nationally recognised qualifications and for those undergoing training on the policies, the training will result in an NVQ in Environmental Management, Level 4.

To date 19 senior managers have been on a training programme and a further 18 are scheduled for a course in October.

Iain Anderson, managing director, Sodexo Healthcare, said: "We have worked very closely over the last 18 months with the healthcare teams and our clients to ensure that these policies meet all of our requirements and they have been positively received."

The policies' procedures, training and supporting information offers clear advice to Sodexo Healthcare site teams and is available in an instant online. In addition to the website, employees will have access to a 24 hour free phone number; will receive quarterly legislative updates by email; will have access to specific learning and development materials for managers and teams; and will also receive updates of other relevant waste related activity.

Paul Bracegirdle, environmental manager, Sodexo, said: "Our new clinical waste management policy will provide continuity across our Healthcare business providing clear guidelines on how best to manage and handle waste and help employees to continue to work in an environmentally responsible manner. Not only that, we are able to introduce the non-clinical policy across other parts of Sodexo, including our catering business for example, so we can maximise the opportunity to recycle and manage waste efficiently and effectively all round, which is a priority focus for us."

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About Sodexo

In the UK and Ireland, Sodexo employs 48,000 employees, and provides food and facilities management services to clients at over 2,300 locations in the business and industry, education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors.

Many FTSE 100 companies rely on Sodexo for cost-effective solutions to their employee or hospitality catering, or to deliver services such as cleaning, reception, switchboard and help desks, mailroom, reprographics and grounds maintenance.

Sodexo is part of Sodexo Alliance the leading global provider of food and management services, with more than 332,000 employees at 28,300 sites in 80 countries.