

## Clinical Waste Bag Audit Trail – Options

This document contains information on the advantages, disadvantages, costs and benefits of all known methods for sealing and auditing clinical waste.

### Pre-Printed Labels



Using a tag or knotting to seal the bag and applying a pre-printed label to create the audit trail. The label must include details of the trust and department of issue.

**Costs:** Cost of tag, cost of label and additional time to apply the label after sealing

**Benefit:** Low cost

**Disadvantages:** the audit trail is dependent on the quality of the label. If the label becomes detached the audit trail is lost. If the label becomes detached from the bag, the waste management company should not handle the bag.

Each location in the hospital will have to have its own label. Which can create a lot of items to hold in stores sometimes 60+.

### Writing Information on the Bag



Using a tag or knotting to seal the bag and then writing information onto the bag to create an audit trail.

**Cost:** Cost of tag and additional time to write on the bag.

**Benefit:** Lowest cost

**Disadvantages:** The audit trail is dependent upon the correct information being written on the bag. The audit trail is also dependent on the legibility of the hand written information.

The audit trail is dependent upon the quality of the writing implement used. The correct pen should be used to ensure a good contrast and that it is not able to be wiped off the bag.

### Pre-Printed Tape



Using pre-printed tape to seal the bag and create the audit trail.

**Costs:** Perceived as low cost, however this can vary due to the amount of tape used to seal the bag.

**Benefit:** Every bag is customised with the department and trust information, so formal audit trail is generated.

**Disadvantages:** The number of stock items for a trust can be excessive and if this is applied regionally or national, the number of stock codes increases proportionately.

Tape is also more difficult to apply than tags, the tape can also be used for other purposes.

### Printed Clinical Waste Seal



Using a tag to seal the bag which has the trust identification and a sequential serial number printed on the tag.

This is the most widely used concept throughout the United Kingdom. The audit trail is created by having the Trust's identification and contact telephone number printed on the first two lines and a unique serial number on the third line. This gives every clinical waste bag a unique identity.

Talismans clinical waste seals are supplied in cartons of 5,000 and in bags of 100 in bags of 1000, the Trust will record where each bag of tags are issued to by the serial numbers, date and location. In the event of a problem, the clinical waste can be tracked back to its point of origin.

Talisman also provide a free online audit trail management system to our customers making the issuing, tracking and allocating of clinical waste seals as simple as possible.