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# Qualitative Contents Analysis on Current Practices Clinical Waste Management During Pandemic in Healthcare Establishment, Kelantan

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[Mansor F.N.](#)<sup>a</sup>; [Suhaimi A.A.](#)<sup>a</sup> ; [Samah, Mohd Armi Abu](#)<sup>a</sup>; [Nurud S.S.](#)<sup>a</sup>; [Hidayah A.](#)<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Occupational Safety and Health Research Group, Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Pahang, Kuantan, Malaysia

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## Abstract

Clinical waste management (CWM) has become a greater concern since the COVID-19 pandemic. Malaysia has reported a 27% increase in the generation of clinical waste, mostly attributed to COVID-19-related materials. Current clinical waste management practices must be handled carefully in accordance with existing CWM policies and laws, such as the Schedule Waste Regulations, the Environmental Quality Act, and the standard operating procedures provided by the Ministry of Health Malaysia. This research employs a qualitative design, conducting in-depth interviews with healthcare establishment (HCE) staff to explore CWM practices before and during the pandemic and to compare these practices over time. The study revealed that clinical waste management in government hospitals adhered to existing guidelines for COVID-19 waste, with some additional precautions and regulations implemented by the involved concession companies. It was concluded that a few additional standard operating procedures (SOPs) need to be followed, but no new policies or regulations regarding CWM have been implemented. © The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. 2025.

## Author keywords

Clinical waste management; COVID-19; Healthcare establishments; Hospitals; Pandemic COVID-19

## Corresponding authors

Corresponding  
author

A.A. Suhaimi

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Affiliation

Occupational Safety and Health Research Group, Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Universiti  
Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Pahang, Kuantan, Malaysia

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Email address

afiza@umpsa.edu.my

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