

# Reducing Waste in Ambulatory Clinics

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## BACKGROUND

There is a growing body of evidence that nursing engagement at all levels can have an important impact on environmental sustainability, climate change, and waste reductions. Based on research and findings of the Environmental Protection Agency, the total generation of paper waste in the United States alone was 64.4 million tons in 2018.

University Medical Center continues to utilize paper forms of patient education materials that are available to the patient via their electronic medical record.

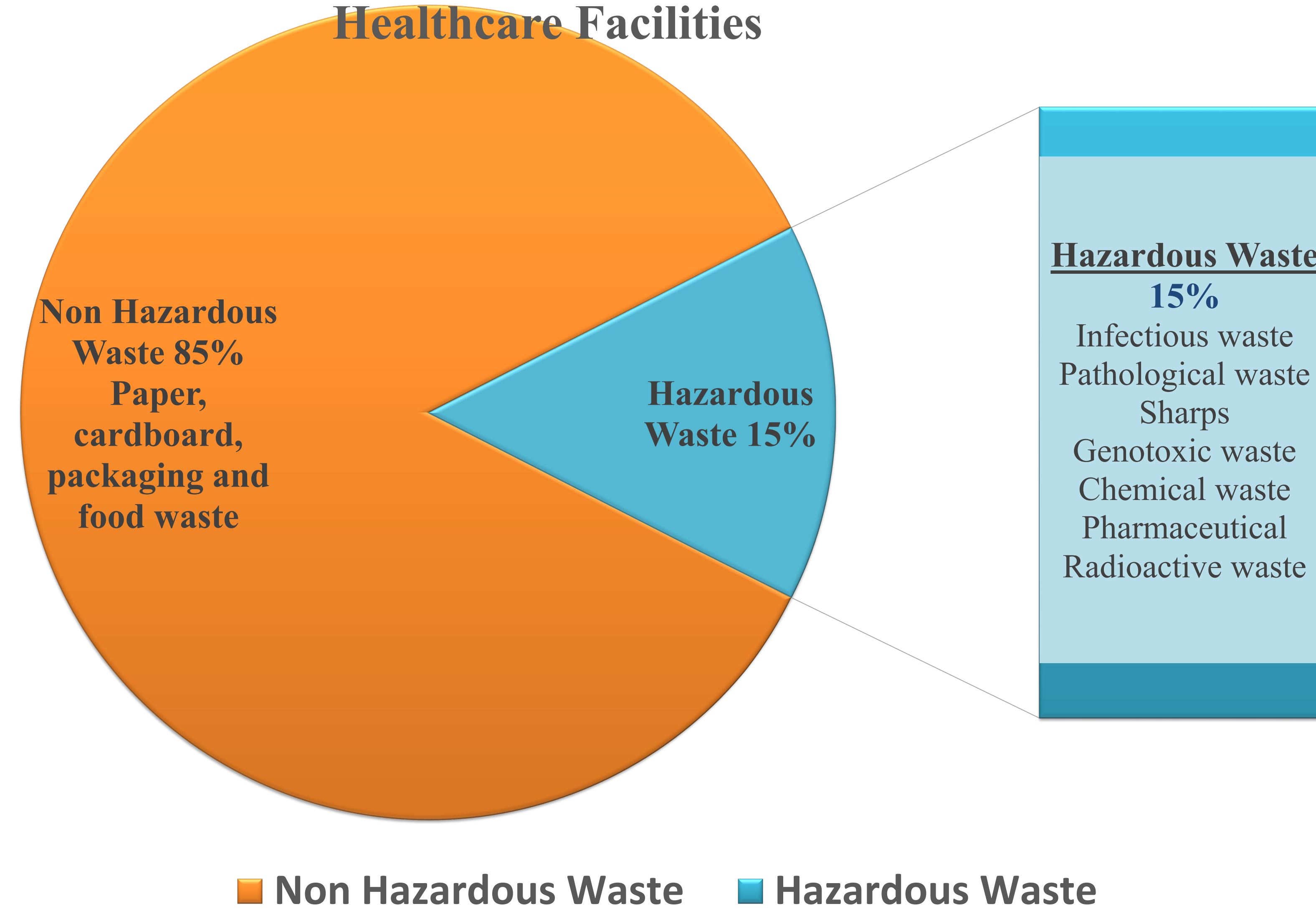
## PURPOSE

To decrease paper waste throughout ambulatory care clinics, increase protection of private patient information and to encourage patient usage of electronic medical records. Additionally, this will improve patient satisfaction due to increased access to their treatment record, discharge instructions, test results and referrals.

## METHODS

- Encourage patient to sign up for **UMC Connect/MyChart** and to allow for electronic discharge instructions.
- Educate patient that **UMC MyChart** provides them with instant access to their clinical information, test results and referral information.
- This will decrease paper usage cost, assist in maintaining closer compliance with HIPPA regulations and reduce our impact on the environment.

Standard Waste Composition in Healthcare Facilities



## RESULTS

Paper usage and cost will be evaluated after pilot program is implemented using electronic After Visit Summary (AVS) instructions.

## CONCLUSIONS

The Ambulatory Care Unit Based Council would like to encourage usage of electronic AVS discharge instructions to decrease paper waste, reduce supply cost and enhance patient experience.

## REFERENCES

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## MyChart AVS Discharge Process

