

**SOP Human Tissue Disposal at SHU**

**1. Background**

SHU policy and government guidelines are in line with the [HTA Code of Practice 5: Disposal](http://www.shu.ac.uk/_assets/pdf/research/ethics/code_of_practice_5_-_disposal_of_human_tissue.pdf). Disposal will be done in an ethical and respectful manner by incineration according to SHU guidelines for disposal of human tissue.

This SOP outlines the procedure for destroying tissue / samples from human tissue after they are no longer required or consent to retain the samples has been withdrawn.

**2. Procedure**

* Residual tissue / samples left after research projects have finished can be sent to the Biorepository if they are deemed still useful and not contaminated in any way.
* If it is agreed that the tissue / sample should be destroyed, they will be disposed of in accordance with the [local clinical waste disposal SOP](http://www.shu.ac.uk/_assets/pdf/research/ethics/017-sop-01-disposal-of-clinical-waste-bins.pdf).
* In all cases the disposal must be logged on the human tissue log [Google Sheets]. To get access to the log please email humantissue@shu.ac.uk.

**I. Unfixed Tissue specimens**

These should be fixed in 10% buffered formalin prior to disposal. Once fixed proceed as per fixed samples.

**II. Fixed specimens**

The fixative should be drained off prior to disposal by pouring down the sink with copious amounts of water, then the lid returned to the container (if glass containers, then the tissue should be placed in a plastic bag and sealed) and placed in a yellow incineration bin. Glass microscope slides with fixed human tissue/cells should also be placed in yellow incineration bins. The yellow bin should only be used for human tissue. Do not fill above the designated fill line.

**III. Contaminated sharps and tissue sections on glass slides**

These should be placed in a yellow sharps incineration bin. The bin should only be used for human tissue. Do not fill above the designated fill line

**IV. Blood, Serum & Urine samples**

The sample containers should be resealed where appropriate and then placed in a yellow incineration bin or yellow sharps bin. The bin should only be used for human tissue.