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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Foreword to the first edition; Acknowledgements; Acronyms and abbreviations; 1 Introduction; 2 Definition and characterization of health-care waste; 2.1 General definition and classification; 2.1.1 Sharps waste; 2.1.2 Infectious waste; 2.2 Pathological waste; 2.3 Pharmaceutical waste, including genotoxic waste; 2.4 Chemical waste; 2.5 Radioactive waste; 2.6 Non-hazardous general waste; 2.7 Sources of health-care waste; 2.8 Generation of health-care waste; 2.9 Physicochemical characteristics; 2.10 Minimum approach to overall management of health-care waste 2.11 Desirable improvements to the minimum approach2.12 References and further reading; 3 Risks associated with health-care waste; 3.1 Overview of hazards; 3.1.1 Types of hazards; 3.1.2 Persons at risk; 3.1.3 Hazards from infectious waste and sharps; 3.1.4 Hazards from chemical and pharmaceutical waste; 3.1.5 Hazards from genotoxic waste; 3.1.6 Hazards from radioactive waste; 3.1.7 Hazards from health-care waste-treatment methods; 3.2 Public sensitivity; 3.3 Public health impact; 3.3.1 Impacts of infectious waste and sharps; 3.3.2 Impacts of chemical and pharmaceutical waste 3.3.3 Impacts of genotoxic waste3.3.4 Impacts of radioactive waste; 3.4 Survival of pathogenic microorganisms in the environment; 3.5 The need for further research and epidemiological surveys; 3.6 References

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	 and further reading; 4 Legislative, regulatory and policy aspects of health-care waste; 4.1 Importance of a national policy; 4.2 Guiding principles; 4.3 International agreements and conventions; 4.3.1 The Basel Convention; 4.3.2 The Bamako Convention; 4.3.3 The Stockholm Convention; 4.3.4 The environment and sustainable development conferences 4.3.5 United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods4.3.6 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; 4.3.7 Aarhus Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; 4.4 Available guidance; 4.4.1 World Health Organization Guidance; 4.4.2 The International Solid Waste Association; 4.4.3 ISWA policy document on health-care waste management; 4.5 National legislation; 4.6 Technical guidelines; 4.7 Minimum approach to developing health-care waste-management policy; 4.8 Desirable improvements to the minimum approach; 4.9 References and further reading 5 Health-care waste-management planning5.1 The need for planning; 5.2 National plans; 5.2.1 Purpose of a national health-care waste- management plan; 5.2.2 Action plan for developing a national programme; 5.3 Waste-management plan for a health-care facility; 5.3.1 Assignment of responsibilities; 5.3.2 Management structure, liaison arrangements and duties; 5.3.3 Assessment of waste generation; 5.3.4 Development of a hospital waste-management plan; 5.3.5 Implementation of the waste-management plan; 5.4 Minimum approach to planning; 5.5 Desirable improvements to the minimum approach 5.6 References and further reading
Sommario/riassunto	This is the second edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) handbook on the safe sustainable and affordable management of health-care waste - commonly known as the Blue Book . The original Blue Book was a comprehensive publication used widely in health-care centres and government agencies to assist in the adoption of national guidance. It also provided support to committed medical directors and managers to make improvements and presented practical information on waste-management techniques for medical staff and waste workers. In many countries knowledge about the potential for harm from