



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION
Building Partnerships For Better Health Care

**Methodist Hospital Division –
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital**

Reduction in Regulated Medical Waste

Methodist Hospital was able to reduce its regulated medical waste from 7.28 pounds per patient day in October 2007 to its lowest rate of 2.17 pounds per patient day, and an average of 2.73 pounds per patient day, over the last 16 months.

The hospital succeeded in this effort by taking the following steps:

1. Inspecting red bag waste;
2. Implementing a plan to remove all red step-on cans in patient rooms;
3. Educating staff about regulated medical waste.

At least 80% of trash in red bags was found NOT to be infectious.

Education of staff was accomplished by (1) explaining the definition of infectious waste and (2) conducting in-services in virtually every area of the hospital.