



GENERATIONS + NORTHERN MANHATTAN HEALTH NETWORK

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**LINCOLN HOSPITAL PIONEERS INNOVATIVE ECO-FRIENDLY
AND COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICAL WASTE**

*Hospital is Only NYC Medical Facility Authorized by State Department of Health to Use
Rotating Autoclave Technology for Treatment of Regulated Medical Waste*

Bronx, New York - Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center is breaking new ground in New York City with the use of rotating autoclave technology to sterilize and grind up regulated medical waste on-site, protecting healthcare employees, other field professionals and the public as well as safeguarding the environment. Utilizing this state-of-the-art rotating autoclave machine, regulated medical waste—such as sharps and other biohazardous material— is sterilized, ground into confetti-like particles and disposed of as treated medical waste, in accordance with New York State guidelines.

Authorized by the New York State Department of Health, Lincoln Hospital is the only medical facility in New York City approved to use rotating autoclave technology for the treatment of regulated medical waste. It is an environmentally-sound and cost-effective solution for the management of waste stream generated by health care facilities.

The autoclave machine reduces the volume of medical waste by about 80 percent and led to a savings in the treatment and removal of medical waste of \$42,000 from April 2010 to June 2010. The hospital projects it will save \$167,000 a year in the treatment and removal of medical waste.

The initiative was spearheaded by a Lincoln Hospital cost-containment committee that worked in collaboration with city and state regulatory agencies to develop new statewide policies for use of this new technology. The group undertook extensive research on waste processing methods and alternatives to ensure the safety and feasibility of rotating autoclave technology and its compliance with regulatory requirements. The research led the committee to formulate a set of guidelines to conform to City and State medical waste disposal policies and regulations.

“We welcome this exceptional opportunity to do our part in protecting the environment and shielding the public from exposure to medical waste,” said Lincoln Hospital Executive Director Iris Jimenez-Hernandez. “Furthermore, the implementation

of this groundbreaking technology will not only play a vital role in preventing public exposure of contaminants by treating infectious material on site, but also represents a significant cost-containment tool.”

She added: “I take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the cost-containment committee for their hard work, perseverance and the important role they played in developing guidelines that meet the meticulous criteria of regulatory and enforcement agencies.”

Manufactured by Tempico Industries, Inc., the Rotoclave® rotating mechanism reaches the required minimum temperature of 276 degrees Fahrenheit necessary to sterilize medical waste. It releases the end product as unrecognized, treated waste whose volume is reduced by approximately 80 percent. Previously, regulated medical waste was removed from the facility at a cost of \$183,000 annually. Currently, annual costs are projected at \$16,000 for a projected savings of \$167,000 a year. Actual savings for FY 2010 were \$42,000. The use of the machine will also mitigate exposure to penalties and/or fines from regulatory agencies that can cost as much as \$1 million per occurrence.

The facility generated 405,222 lbs. of regulated medical waste in 2009, an increase of approximately 33% over the past five years. This is due, in part, to consistent increases in admissions, discharges, clinic visits and surgical procedures. The autoclave machine cost \$600,000.

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, located at 234 E. 149th Street in the Bronx, is a 347-bed, acute care level 1 trauma center with the busiest single-site emergency department in the region. The hospital emphasizes primary care and specialty medicine and utilizes the latest advances in medical science. Lincoln Hospital is a member of the Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network, a healthcare conglomerate which is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

About HHC

The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) is a \$6.7 billion integrated health care delivery system with its own 385,000 member health plan, MetroPlus, and is the largest municipal health care organization in the country. HHC serves 1.3 million New Yorkers every year and more than 450,000 are uninsured. HHC provides medical, mental health and substance abuse services through its 11 acute care hospitals, four skilled nursing facilities, six large diagnostic and treatment centers and more than 80 community based clinics. HHC Health and Home Care also provides in-home services for New Yorkers. HHC was the 2008 recipient of the National Quality Forum and The Joint Commissions John M. Eisenberg Award for Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/hhc.