

EDU-QUICK: Hazardous Drugs Handling

PURPOSE:

- The purpose of this Edu-Quick is to update health care providers on changes to the hazardous drug handling classification & hazardous drug handling policy.

OBJECTIVES:

- Understand changes to hazardous drug categorization & differences between Hazardous Drugs Group 1 and Hazardous Drugs Group 2.
- Know how to access the BC Provincial Hazardous Drug List
- Be able to demonstrate appropriate PPE usage for Group 1 and 2 hazardous drugs

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS:

- Hazardous Drugs Handling Precautions policy
- Hazardous Drug Update EduQuick Powerpoint
- Hazardous Drug Precautions poster
- Hazardous Drug Handling record – area dependent
- Exposure Control Plan (Nursing section of control matrix pg 54-56)
<https://your.healthbc.org/sites/hazardousdrugsafety/layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- BC Hazardous Drug Clinical Nursing Resource

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS:

This edu-quick is designed as an interactive information session with accompanying Powerpoint presentation. If you do not have access to a computer to present the Powerpoint presentation you can read through the following content below.

It is an open session, which allows time for questions and answers. The facilitator should emphasize the changes to the new policy & how this impacts staff.





CONTENT:

WHY is the Hazardous Drug Policy changing?

- Hazardous drug handling policies & procedures are in place to protect health care employees from potential health hazards.
- Previously, drugs requiring occupational exposure precautions were grouped together and commonly called "cytotoxic" as they were mostly used in the treatment of cancer. Then the terminology was changed to antineoplastic and non-antineoplastic, but this led to misunderstanding as not all drugs used to treat cancer need precautions. And also many drugs not used to treat cancer do require special precautions.

- The National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently defined and reclassified drugs based on the inherent hazards of the drugs, not what they are used to treat. As a result, the BC Provincial Pharmacy Hazardous Drug Review Committee (PPHDRC) has published a new list of hazardous drugs divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. Both these groups of drugs are hazardous, but represent different hazards. Group 1 and Group 2 are not hierarchical (i.e., one is not more hazardous than the other is); they represent different hazards.

WHAT are the two hazardous drug groups?

Group 1	Group 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs which contain manufacturers’ special handling information (MSHI); and/or • Drugs which meet the NIOSH definition of a hazardous drug and are classified by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) as “known to be a human carcinogen,” and/or classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as “carcinogenic” or “probably carcinogenic” • Many of these drugs are cytotoxic and the majority are hazardous to males or females who are actively trying to conceive, women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, and women who are breast feeding, because the drugs may be excreted in breast milk. • Not all drugs in Level 1 are antineoplastic drugs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug that meet the NIOSH definition of a hazardous drug but are not drugs which have MSHI and are not classified by the NTP as “known to be a human carcinogen,” and/or classified by the IARC as “carcinogenic” or “probably carcinogenic.” • These drugs exhibit one or more of the types of toxicity described in the NIOSH definition of hazardous drug. • Some of these drugs may present an occupational hazard to males or females who are actively trying to conceive, women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, and women who are breast feeding, because they may be present in breast milk.
<p style="text-align: center;">Group 1 symbol:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Group 2 symbol:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>

(MSHI – additional information in a drug’s package insert with language informing those handling the drug of the need to follow heightened handling and disposal procedures)

- The main update is a change to terminology - there are now two groups of Hazardous Drugs.
- The list of **Group 1** drugs is similar to the current list of Cytotoxic drugs. Require precautions for handling of drugs & related waste and care of the patient during precautionary period (48 hours after last dose)
- **Group 2** are drugs that aren’t known or possible carcinogens, and have some risk for harm. Require precautions for handling of drugs & related waste, but no precautionary period for patients.

WHAT are the new labels & when do we use them?



- For Group 1:
 - Storage bins, drawers, shelving areas & transport containers
 - Lab specimens taken during precautionary period (label TBD)
 - All containers containing hazardous drugs prepared for admin by nursing (eg an IV bag) must be labelled & also IV tubing used for HD drug administration
- For Group 2:
 - Storage bins, drawers, shelving areas & transport containers
 - All containers containing hazardous drugs prepared for admin by nursing (eg an IV bag) must be labelled
- Laundry:
 - Any linens that are visibly soiled need to be placed in laundry bag and labeled with “HD1” label.
- With the introduction of CST, we will see enhanced alerts for both drug groups. There will be a Process Alert for Group 1 drugs during the precautionary period.
- Drugs will also be labelled from pharmacy with the Group 1 or Group 2 classification

New Signage

- Signs have been updated to reflect the new terminology
- Signs are to be placed outside the patients room door or in front of their bed during the precautionary period
- Common spaces such as medication rooms or pharmacy prep areas will also need a sign posted outside the room
- HD drugs stored in medication rooms will need to be in bins appropriately labeled (group 1 & group 2 can be stored together)

Precautionary Period & What to Wear

- **Precautionary period** – Group 1: starting with administration & 48 hours after last dose. Group 2: no precautionary period.
- For Group 1 HDs during prep of drugs, med admin & precautionary period nurse will wear:
 - 2 pairs of chemo approved gloves
 - Chemo-approved gown
 - Eye/face protection (required for parenteral & inhalation therapy; others only if risk of splash). Full eye & face protection can be from properly fitted safety goggles with medical mask (i.e., surgical or procedure), transparent full-face splash shield with medical mask or Full-face piece elastomeric respirator or powered-air purifying respirator

NOTE: Prescription glasses, safety glasses, and medical mask (with an attached visor only) are **NOT** acceptable for splash protection. Medical masks with attached visors are intended for droplet precautions, they do not prevent splashes from coming overtop of the shield or prevent liquid running down the face into the eyes.

- There is a nursing clinical resource document that can be referenced on what PPE to wear in which situation or you can refer to the ECP control matrix document. This lists what to wear during medication administration for Group 1 & Group 2 hazardous drugs depending on the form of administration (ie. IV, po liquid, etc).
- There is a full list of what HDs are group 1 & group 2 on the teamsite.
- Refer to “Ordering Information for Hazardous Drugs” document for item ordering numbers & product photos.

Nursing Implications

- **Transporting** of HDs has not changed. Porters are to be transporting HDs in a rigid container from pharmacy. As the receiving nurse you will need to place the medication in a dedicated labeled storage bin while wearing two pairs of chemo-approved gloves.
- **CST Alerts** – with the introduction of CST, we will see enhanced alerts for both drug groups. There will be a Process Alert for Group 1 drugs during the precautionary period.
- **Lab specimens** – For Group 1 HDs when collecting blood or bodily fluid (eg. Urine) during the precautionary period the person performing the task will wear PPE (2 chemo gloves, chemo gown, eye/face protection if risk of splash) & label the specimen with a group 1 HD label. This includes drawing blood through a central line or peripherally. For group 2 continue to follow universal routine practices.
- **Spill management** – Follow policies & procedures on SHOP. Spills are managed depending on size. Ensure your unit has a proper spill kit & you know the location.
- **Handling Records** – A record of all employees who compound, prepare or administer HDs must be maintained. Records templates are available in the ECP on the teamsite. This record is to be kept for 10 years. This is to be reviewed annually at the employees PPR.
- **Protective Reassignment** – Employees who regularly compound or administer reproductive risk hazardous drugs have the option to request protective reassignment if they are pregnant, breastfeeding, or intending to conceive. Ask your unit supervisor for more information.

WHAT learninghub courses do I need to complete?

- Nurses who handle, prepare, and administer hazardous drugs.
 - The curriculum titled [Hazardous Drugs Safety for Staff Who Administer Drugs](#) which contains four modules:
 - *Hazardous drugs: Administering,*
 - *Hazardous drugs: Awareness,*
 - *Hazardous drugs: Providing Care,* and
 - *Hazardous drugs: Spill Responder.*
 - Curriculum titled [Hazardous Drugs Safety for Staff Who Receive, Unpack and Transport Drugs](#)
 - *Only complete Hazardous Drugs: Receiving, Unpacking and Transport.*
- Point of care nurses who are not directly involved in drug administration
 - The curriculum titled [Hazardous Drugs Safety for Staff Who Provide Care](#) which contains three modules:

- *Hazardous drugs: Awareness,*
- *Hazardous drugs: Providing Care,* and
- *Hazardous drugs: Spill Responder.*
- Nurses who do not directly handle hazardous drugs but work in a facility where hazardous drugs are used.
 - The course titled [Hazardous Drugs Safety Awareness](#)

RESOURCES:

- Refer to BC Hazardous Drug teamsite:
[https://your.healthbc.org/sites/hazardousdrugsafety/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx](https://your.healthbc.org/sites/hazardousdrugsafety/layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx)
- Exposure Control Program document
- BC Hazardous Drug list
- Hazardous Drugs Clinical Nursing Resource
- Learninghub curriculum: Hazardous Drugs Safety for Staff who Administer Hazardous Drugs

QUESTIONS??

- Contact your program CNE, CRN, QSL