


Hazardous Drug Safety

Annual Compliance Education

A photograph showing a hand holding a syringe in a hospital setting. In the background, a nurse in blue scrubs is visible, and an IV drip is hanging from a stand. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the hand and syringe in the foreground.

This course contains annual compliance education necessary to meet compliance and regulatory requirements.

Instructions:

To receive credit for completion:

1. Read the content in full.
2. Complete the online exam.



Carolinan HealthCare System

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One

Hazardous Drug Safety

Welcome

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to provide information to protect yourself, our patients and our visitors from exposure to hazardous drugs.

Learning Objectives:

When finished with this course, you should be able to:

- Define hazardous drugs
- Discuss the hazardous drug precautions sign and what it means
- Describe how to handle soiled items from patients receiving hazardous drugs
- List the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you must use in the presence of hazardous drugs



Hazardous Drug Safety

Hazardous Drugs - Defined

The term **hazardous drug** refers to dangerous drugs with possible health risks to people. Special care and handling is needed.

Hazardous drugs can cause one or more of the following characteristics in humans and animals:

- Carcinogenicity – causes cancer
- Teratogenicity or developmental toxicity – causes birth defects
- Reproductive toxicity – affects the ability to have children
- Organ toxicity (at low doses)
- Genotoxicity – causes a change or mutation in genes



Hazardous Drug Safety

Avoiding Hazardous Drug Exposure



Exposure to hazardous drugs can cause:

- Irritation to the mouth, eyes and skin
- Stomach or bowel symptoms
- Nervous system changes/problems
- Other symptoms

You can be exposed to a hazardous drug:

- By it being absorbed through the skin, mouth or eyes
- From a needlestick
- By breathing droplets of the drug in the air
- By eating contaminated food or beverages



Hazardous Drug Safety

Protecting Yourself

Protect yourself and learn how to safely handle hazardous drugs by correctly:

- Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Reading labels and signs
- Transporting hazardous drugs
- Handling body fluids and linens
- Disposing of hazardous drugs
- Handling hazardous drug spills
- Following safety precautions in the event of an exposure
- Knowing where to find Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)



Hazardous Drug Safety

Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

You are responsible for protecting yourself from exposure to hazardous drugs.

When handling hazardous drugs or items contaminated with hazardous drugs:

- Use two pairs (double glove) of powder-free, disposable gloves and a gown when directly handling the soiled linens of patients receiving hazardous drugs
- Wear eye goggles and mask, if needed
- Use plastic face shield if there is a possibility of splashing or spraying



Hazardous Drug Safety

Reading Labels and Signs

Pay attention to drug labels and signs that warn of special handling or required PPE.

- Pharmacies place warning labels on containers with hazardous drugs
- Nursing places Hazardous Drug Precaution signs on patient's door
- Signs remain posted for 48 hours after the last dose of the hazardous drug has been given to the patient



Hazardous Drug Precautions

Soiled linens require special handling

Personal Protective Equipment Required:

Gloves	Double glove when handling soiled linens.
Gown	Disposable barrier gown when handling soiled linens.
Mask	When splash to face is likely to occur.
Eye Protection	When splash to face is likely to occur.

- Occupational exposure to hazardous drugs can lead to a variety of acute health issues, including skin rashes, adverse reproductive events, and cancer.
- Those with potential for exposure include: Nursing, physician, nursing assistant, pharmacy, environmental services, and guest services staff as well as visitors.
- Refer to Synapse for complete listing of drugs to be considered hazardous in addition to related policies.



Hazardous Drug Safety

Transporting Hazardous Drugs

To make sure teammates, patients and visitors are safe, always transport hazardous drugs in a sealed bag or container with a warning label.

NOTE: Liquid hazardous drugs may NOT be transported by the pneumatic tube system.



Hazardous Drug Safety

Handling Patient Body Fluid

Use the following precautions when handling patient body fluids:

- Keep strict intake and output on all patients
- Use appropriate PPE (double glove):
 - For at least 48 hours after the last dose of chemotherapy/hazardous drug has been given to the patient
 - When handling body fluids or linens
- Pour urine carefully. To avoid splashing when flushing, put the toilet lid down or cover it with pad if there is no lid.



Hazardous Drug Safety

Handling Patient Linens

Take the following precautions when handling patient linens:

- Wear double gloves and gown when directly handling soiled linens. This is required.
- Use PPE for at least 48 hours after patient completes therapy
- Place contaminated linens in an orange bag (eMerald #3625)
- Place the orange bag inside a clear bag (eMerald #3624). Linens will be prewashed separately then added to the hospital laundry for a second wash.



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Disposing of Hazardous Drugs

When disposing of hazardous drugs or body fluids:

- Put all used items in a puncture resistant chemotherapy (yellow) container. This includes hazardous drug bags, tubing, gloves and gowns.
- Put all items with body fluids in a chemotherapy (yellow) container. This includes diapers.



Yellow Containers:

- 3 Gallon Bins: eMerald #7665
- 8 Gallon Bins: eMerald #7664



Hazardous Drug Safety

Handling Spills

In the event of a hazardous drug spill:

- Get a spill kit from the unit, a nurse leader or the pharmacy
- Post a warning sign for people to avoid the spill area
- Put on PPE from the spill kit
- Clean up a spill only if you have been properly trained



Spill Kits: eMerald #2938

Spill kits should be available on any unit administering hazardous drugs to patients.



Hazardous Drug Safety

Dealing with an Exposure

If you, a patient or visitor become exposed to hazardous material:

- Wash the affected area immediately with soap and water
- Complete one of the following CARE Event Incident Reports found on PeopleConnect:
 - Teammate Work-Related Injury or Illnesses (ROI) form
 - Patient Related Incident Event form
 - Visitor Related Incident Event form



Hazardous Drug Safety

Safety Data Sheets

Refer to Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to learn more about the hazardous drugs in your facility.

Safety Data Sheets:

- Provide information to help protect you from exposure to hazardous materials
- Are required for any hazardous chemical or drug
- Are available online through PeopleConnect - Corporate Safety



Hazardous Drug Safety

Summary

Hazardous drugs can affect your health if they are not correctly handled. Follow the precautions outlined in this course to keep yourself, your teammates, patients and visitors safe from exposure.

The following are some strategies reviewed in this course:

- Protect yourself by wearing double gloves and other PPE
- Read all labels and signs carefully
- Follow special handling procedures when transporting or disposing of hazardous drugs, patient body fluid and/or linens
- Make sure a spill kit is available and use it in the event of a spill
- If exposed, wash the affected area immediately with soap and water and complete an ROII
- Review Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) to know the facts about hazardous drugs kept in your facility

