

SECTION 8B: PUMPS AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION	POLICY: 8B.2
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PURPOSE:

- To provide general guidance on the safe handling, administration, and disposal of hazardous and/or antineoplastic medications to minimize exposure risk to patients, caregivers, and healthcare personnel.

POLICY:

- Hazardous and/or antineoplastic medications will be handled and administered by a trained registered nurse in accordance with physician orders, applicable safety guidelines, pharmacy/manufacturer recommendations, and Agency policy.
- The Agency will ensure that staff handling hazardous medications have received appropriate education and competency validation related to safe handling practices.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Hazardous drugs, including antineoplastic agents, are medications that may potentially pose a risk to healthcare workers and others due to their potential for toxicity, carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, or organ toxicity.
- Exposure may occur through inhalation, skin contact, ingestion, or accidental injection; therefore, appropriate precautions must be followed during preparation, administration, and disposal.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Registered nurses handling hazardous drugs will receive general education on safe handling practices, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE), spill management, and proper disposal procedures.
- Adherence to Agency policy are expected when handling these medications.
- The nurse will provide general education to the patient and/or caregiver regarding safe handling precautions, potential risks of exposure, and appropriate measures for managing bodily fluids and waste in the home setting.

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- Instructions should include hand hygiene, avoidance of direct contact with medication or contaminated materials, and when to notify the Agency of concerns.
- Appropriate PPE should be utilized when handling hazardous medications, which may include gloves, gowns, and/or other protective barriers as indicated.
- PPE use should align with Agency policy and the level of anticipated exposure.
- In the event of a hazardous drug spill, appropriate precautions will be taken to contain and clean the spill using available supplies and in accordance with Agency guidance.
- Significant spills or exposures should be reported to the Agency immediately for further instruction.
- Hazardous drug waste, including contaminated supplies, will be disposed of in accordance with Agency policy and applicable regulations.
- Sharps and trace waste should be placed in appropriate containers and not disposed of in regular household trash unless otherwise directed.

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain and verify physician's orders and any pharmacy-provided instructions prior to handling or administration of the medication.
2. Perform hand hygiene and gather all necessary supplies, including appropriate PPE.
3. Don appropriate PPE prior to handling hazardous medication or related materials.
4. Explain the procedure and safety considerations to the patient and/or caregiver, including any necessary precautions during and after administration.
5. Prepare and administer the medication in accordance with physician orders and pharmacy/manufacturer guidelines.
6. Avoid unnecessary handling of the medication and use caution to prevent spills, splashes, or aerosolization.

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7. Monitor the patient during and after administration as appropriate and report any adverse reactions to the Agency.
8. Upon completion, dispose of all hazardous drug waste and contaminated materials in appropriate containers.
9. Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene following completion of the procedure.
10. In the event of a spill or exposure, follow guidelines for containment, cleanup, and reporting. Notify the Agency immediately for further instruction.
11. Provide reinforcement of patient/caregiver education as needed regarding ongoing safety precautions in the home.

DOCUMENTATION:

- Document the procedure, patient’s response to the procedure, and record lot numbers and expirations dates for all vials used.