IREDELL HEALTH SYSTEM

Labeling, Packaging, Dispensing and Transporting HAZARDOUS DRUGS	
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Purpose
Hazardous Drugs (HDs) may pose serious health risks to employees that handle them regularly. The following policy details appropriate measures for labeling, packaging, dispensing and transporting of HDs.

Policy
HDs identified as requiring special handling precautions shall be clearly labeled at all times.

This entity shall use packaging containers and materials that will maintain physical integrity, stability, and sterility of the HDs during transport. Packaging materials shall protect the HD from damage, leakage, contamination and degradation, while protecting healthcare workers who transport HDs. Dedicated equipment for packaging shall be made available for HDs. Automated packaging machines shall be used only as specified in *Assessment of Risk* (AOR).

HDs must be transported in containers that minimize the risk of breakage or leakage. Individuals responsible for transporting antineoplastic injectable agents and all other HDs, as specified by AOR, shall be aware of what is being transported and have received training concerning handling spills and exposure events. Designated transport containers shall be utilized as specified in this policy and shall not contain products for more than one patient at a time.

Procedure

- **Labeling**
  Identified HDs shall display the labels, as specified in the chart below, upon completed preparation by pharmacy.
- **Packaging**
  Personnel packaging unit-dose undamaged oral antineoplastic agents and all other HDs, as specified in AOR, shall don chemotherapy gloves. Personnel packaging unit-dose damaged (i.e. containers with broken tablets or extraneous powders) agents shall don chemotherapy gloves and an impervious gown. Eye and respiratory protection shall be applied if risk for spills is present.

  Manual packaging method shall take place in the designated area, with designated counting trays and spatulas.
- **Dispensing**
  Finished parenteral antineoplastic products shall be stored in the designated transport container in the main pharmacy while waiting for final dispensing. All other finished HDs shall be stored as described in the AOR while awaiting final dispensing.
- **Transporting**
  Personnel transporting antineoplastic injectable agents and all other HDs, as specified in AOR, shall don single pair of chemotherapy gloves. Double-bagged items as specified in AOR shall be transported while wearing a single pair of chemotherapy gloves.

	Labeling	Packaging	Dispensing	Transporting
NIOSH Group 1 injectable HDs		Double sealable bagged (Procedure described in *Compounding HAZARDOUS DRUGS* policy) PPE requirement	Designated transport container, within a double sealable bag	Performed by trained personnel Chemotherapy gloves required
NIOSH Group 1 oral HDs		Manual packagaing method PPE requirement	Plastic sealable bag sized to approriate dosage form	Specifications in *AOR*
NIOSH Group 2 & 3 HDs (*refer to individual AOR documentation*)		Manual Packaging Method OR Automated Packaging Machine - Specified in *AOR* PPE requirement as specified in *AOR*	Specifications in *AOR*	Specifications in *AOR*

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