

IREDELL HEALTH SYSTEM

Post-Administration Handling Requirements with HAZARDOUS DRUGS	
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Nursing Leadership P&T Committee	Date: 03/2020 Date: 04/2020

Purpose

Hazardous Drugs (HDs) in the workplace may pose significant risks to the health of all employees handling. This following policy details appropriate handling post-administration of antineoplastic agents. The Assessment of Risk (AOR) of non-antineoplastic agents should be referred to for their appropriate handling procedures post-administration.

Policy

Variable amounts of HDs and their metabolites are excreted in the urine, stool, sweat and other body excreta of patients receiving HDs. Safe handling precautions should be observed for 48 hours following antineoplastic drug administration and as according to individual AORs for non-antineoplastic agents.

Patients receiving antineoplastic agents inpatient shall be identified by a yellow magnet located on the outside of the door frame to ensure all safe handling precautions are carried out.

Procedure

Safe handling precautions for health care workers include proper PPE (a gown, double gloves and a mask with face protection, if splashing is possible). PPE shall be worn when handling items, such as bed linens, disposable items (i.e. pads, diapers, etc) contaminated with HD spill or body fluids. PPE should be discarded after each use or immediately when knowingly contaminated. Refer to *Hazardous Drug and Waste Disposal* policy for appropriate disposal containers. Hands shall be washed with soap and water after removal of gloves.

Double flushing of excrement shall occur for all patients receiving or have received an anti-neoplastic agent or as according to individual AORs.

Single-use items, such as bedpans or urinals, shall be used and disposed of after each use for patients receiving antineoplastic agents. Reusable items may be used for patients receiving hazardous non-antineoplastic agents and must be washed twice thoroughly with detergent all while wearing appropriate PPE.

Cleaning of work surfaces during admission and at discharge for all patient care areas and work surfaces in which antineoplastic agents were administered shall be completed. Appropriate PPE shall be worn during the entire cleaning process. The patient care areas shall be deactivated and decontaminated with an appropriate agent, such as sodium hypochlorite, and disinfected with an appropriate agent, such as Virex.

Any skin area in contact with excrement or blood shall be washed thoroughly with soap and water. In the event of eye contact, the affected eye is immediately flooded with water for five minutes.

“Chemotherapy” labeled trash bags are provided in patient rooms for 48 hours following administration of antineoplastic agents and shall be changed at least daily.

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/2020
DATES REVISIONS EFFECTIVE:
DATES REVIEWED (no changes): 04/2021