HAZARDOUS DRUGS (HD) SPILL CLEANUP - IN SERVICE

Definition Hazardous Drugs: drugs that exhibit one or more of the following characteristics in humans or animals. Include cancer chemotherapy drugs, antiviral drugs, hormones, some bioengineered drugs and other miscellaneous drugs.

- Carcinogenicity – ability to cause cancer (carcinogen);
- Teratogenicity – ability to cause defects in fetal development or malfunction (teratogen);
- Reproductive toxicity – ability to cause fertility impairment and adverse reproductive outcomes in both men and women;
- Organ toxicity at low doses;
- Genotoxicity – ability to cause a change or mutation in genetic material (mutagen); and/or
- Structure and toxicity profiles of new drugs that mimic existing drugs determined hazardous by the above criteria (Reference: NIOSH and Admin EC0048)


- revisions to list typically every 2 years
- ~200 drugs on list

Review Hazardous Drugs Safety Information:

- Know how to access pharmaceutical Safety Data Sheets (SDS) on hospital intranet using MicroMedex
- Product inserts
- OSHA.gov and NIOSH (cdc.gov/niosh) websites
- NIOSH Alert – Preventing Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic and other Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings
- Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs, 2nd Ed, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)
- UHC Consensus Statement: Model Hazardous Drugs Safety Plan for Institutions
- ASHP Guidelines on Handling Hazardous Drugs, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- Admin EC0048, Hazardous Drugs Management

Hazardous Drugs Spill Management:

Classification of Spills:
Assessment of the size of the spill is important in order to manage it correctly.
Spills are classified as either:

- Minor spill (<50 ml/cc HD) or
- Major spill (> 50 ml/cc HD)

A) Minor Spills (<50 ml/cc) – Use Spill Kit

2. Ensure your spill kit has two sets of HD Clean Wipes. Use HD Clean Wipe 1 and then HD Clean Wipe 2. Repeat this process.
3. Keep written procedures and HD Spill Checklist in spill kit box and/or posted by spill kits.
4. Order replacement spill kit through Lawson (#60434).
B) Major Spills (>50 ml/cc) – Contact University Police at 911 (cell phone 631-632-3333)

1. Refer to yellow laminated EOC reference cards.
2. Notify coworkers and have area evacuated.
3. Secure area by restricting access and posting signs.
4. If possible, trained staff can use a spill kit/absorbent material to initially contain the spill prior to evacuation. Do not attempt to clean up a major spill.
5. Contact University Police at 911 (cell: 631-632-3333) and give details of spill including specific location, chemical, quantity, and if anyone is injured. **Note: At UH Satellites: Call local Fire Department or 911.**
6. In case of an injury or chemical contamination:
   a. Wear PPE and move victim from spill area.
   b. Remove any contaminated clothing and place in a plastic bag for laundering or disposal.
   c. If eyes affected, locate nearest emergency eyewash and flush with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes.
   d. If first aid trained, administer first aid as appropriate. Assist person to Employee Health & Wellness or Emergency Department (after hours) for treatment. If possible, bring Safety Data Sheet or chemical label.
7. University Police will contact EH&S, and either EH&S staff or outside personnel will respond to the spill.
8. Staff knowledgeable about the spill should provide responders with all pertinent information and Safety Data Sheet.
9. The responders or designee will inform staff when it is safe to re-enter spill area.

C) Reporting Procedures

a. Spills or other incidents resulting in personal injury or contamination of employees require an Employee Injury/Illness Report. Complete report as per form instructions.

b. Complete HD Spill Checklist, and provide copies to Supervisor, Employee Health & Wellness and EH&S.

D) Waste Disposal

Contact EH&S (4-6783) to arrange for proper disposal of waste generated from spill.