USP <800> and your nurses: How to keep hazardous drugs from doing more harm than good.
Selfless care puts your nurses in harm’s way.

As you know—and as recent surveys have shown—nurses tend to put their patients first. Which means at times they may neglect certain protocols and expose themselves to serious health risks when they’re handling hazardous drugs.

How serious? According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), multiple studies show that exposure to certain hazardous drugs may lead to cancer, reproductive problems, genetic conditions and other serious health risks. To underscore their exposure, these studies have detected and documented hazardous drugs in the urine of healthcare workers following routine administration.

USP <800> is about protecting everyone who handles hazardous drugs.

Because of the health risks these drugs present, The U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) Convention recently released USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs – Handling in Healthcare Settings (USP <800>). This new chapter establishes standards and guidelines for handling hazardous drugs in healthcare settings and applies to all healthcare workers—including nurses. The compliance date is July 1, 2018.

“Hazardous drugs (HDs) are chemicals that demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics: carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, teratogenicity, reproductive toxicity, or organ toxicity.”

To learn more about the impact of USP <800> on your nurses, and to receive a copy of the full ONS, ASCO and HOPA joint position statement, contact your BD representative by visiting bd.com/CSTD.
REFERENCES


2 The United States Pharmacopeia Convention, USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs – Handling in Healthcare Settings (USP <800>), August 1, 2016.


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