



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.

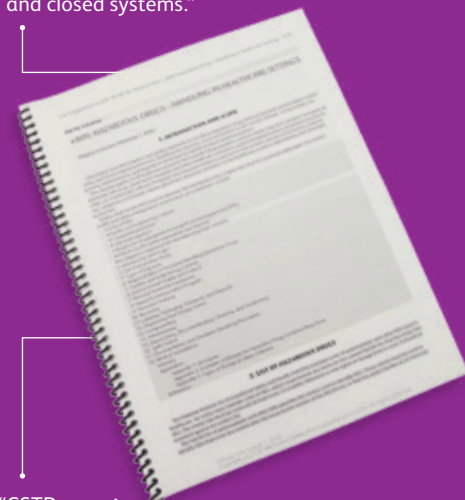
As you know—and as recent surveys have shown—nurses tend to put their patients first. Which means at times they may neglect certain protocols and expose themselves to serious health risks when they're handling hazardous drugs.

How serious? According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)¹, 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>)². 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.

"HDs **must be administered** safely using protective medical devices and techniques. Examples of protective medical devices include needleless and closed systems."



"CSTDs **must be used for administration** of antineoplastic HDs when the dosage form allows."

"**More than 50 studies have demonstrated the presence of HDs in the urine of HCWs, indicating actual exposure.** Occupational exposure to HDs has been associated with acute symptoms such as nasal sores and hair loss, adverse reproductive outcomes such as infertility and miscarriages, genetic changes such as DNA damage, and an increased occurrence of cancer (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)."

"**Occupational HD exposure can be minimized by a comprehensive HD safe-handling program** based on a hierarchy of controls (Connor & McDiarmid, 2006). When a hazard cannot be eliminated, engineering controls are recommended to control exposure."

The experts agree: A joint position statement from ONS, ASCO and HOPA³



USP <800> is supported by a number of healthcare regulatory agencies, including **ONS, ASCO, HOPA, NIOSH and OSHA**. It may also be enforceable by your state board of pharmacy.

To protect your nurses' health, it's important that you follow these new regulations and establish certain best practices for the handling, administration, storage and disposal of hazardous drugs. Compliance is critical. The time to prepare is now.

"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.

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

- 1 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Preventing occupational exposures to antineoplastic and other hazardous drugs in health care settings. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No 2004-165, 2004.
- 2 The United States Pharmacopeia Convention, USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs – Handling in Healthcare Settings (USP <800>), August 1, 2016.
- 3 Joint position statement from Oncology Nursing Society, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. Approved by the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, January 2015. Reviewed January 2016. Review by the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association and the American Society of Clinical Oncology Boards of Directors, April 2016.

BD, 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

bd.com

