

Proposed OHS Guideline: Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements

G6.53(2) Safe procedures for administration of cytotoxic drugs

Proposed February 18, 2005

Proposed section 6.53(2) of *the OHS Regulation* states:

The administration of cytotoxic drugs must be done following safe work procedures.

The administration of cytotoxic drugs to patients is a step that follows the mixing, preparation and initial priming of administration sets. The administration of cytotoxic drugs may take place in a formal health care setting, or at distance, for example, in a patient's home.

This guideline outlines a set of work procedures considered safe for the administration of cytotoxic drugs. Those procedures are:

- Administer cytotoxic drugs by using protective medical devices such as needle-less and closed systems, and techniques such as priming of intravenous (IV) tubing by pharmacy personnel inside a Class II Type B biological safety cabinet or priming in-line with non-drug solutions.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including double gloves, goggles, and protective gowns, for all activities associated with drug administration, such as opening the outer bag, assembling the delivery system, delivering the drug to the patient, and disposing of all equipment used to administer drugs.
- Attach drug administration sets to the IV bag, and prime them before adding the drug to the bag.
- Never remove tubing from an IV bag containing a cytotoxic drug.
- Do not disconnect tubing at other points in the system until the tubing has been thoroughly flushed.
- Remove the IV bag and tubing intact when possible.
- Place disposable items directly in a yellow chemotherapy waste container and close the lid.
- Remove outer gloves and gowns, and bag them for disposal in the yellow chemotherapy waste container at the site of drug administration.
- Double bag the chemotherapy waste before removing the inner gloves.
- Consider double bagging all contaminated equipment.
- Wash hands with soap and water before leaving the drug administration site.